

THE
Gentleman's GUIDE,
IN
His TOUR
THROUGH
FRANCE.

WROTE BY
An OFFICER in the ROYAL-NAVY,

Who lately travelled on a principle, which he most sincerely recommends to his Countrymen, *viz.* Not to spend more money in the Country of our natural enemy, than is requisite to support with decency the character of an ENGLISH MAN.

B R I S T O L :

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tempts to print it shall be prose-
cuted as the law directs.*



T H E

The Gentleman's Guide, &c.

A FONDNESS for travelling being the characteristick of the *English*, more than of any other nation; I imagined that I could not employ my time better than in writing the following sheets; which I hope may prove acceptable to the publick, as it is (to my great surprize) the first attempt of the kind that has ever appear'd in print. I am much concern'd for my inability to execute it as I could wish; but the only, and best apology I can make, is, to abide by the truth, set all partiality aside, and relate nothing but what has really occur'd to my own observation.

The love of my country, and the regard I entertain for its interests, have always a place in my thoughts: through my whole conduct, and in all my observations, still are those points in view; and happy should I esteem myself, if their results would con-

duce in the least degree, to the advantage, improvement, or precaution, of any of my worthy fellow countrymen.

These, it is to be hop'd, are motives very sufficient to induce me to an undertaking of this nature; through the whole of which, I shall use my utmost endeavours not only to make the tour, frugal, pleasing, and advantageous, but also to avoid the many inconveniences and impositions, which must naturally occur to all those who travel, that have not had a previous intimation of them.

I must beg leave to observe, it is a general conceiv'd notion in *England*, that it is necessary to have a considerable fortune to make the tour of *France*: so it is I confess, if a man is determin'd to be a dupe to *Frenchmen*, and enter into all the follies, vices, and fopperies, of that vain, superficial people; but I can with veracity declare, that during eighteen months I was abroad, it did not cost me 150*l.* sterling. In this time I learn'd their language; made myself acquainted with their laws, customs, and manners; never omitted examining, with care, all the curiosities worthy a stranger's inspection; always appear'd in genteel company; kept my servant when in a town; and in all respects, supported with reputation, the character I assum'd.

While I acted on this plan (which proceeded not more from œconomy, than a patriotick

triotick disposition) how frequently did I with concern see our young Nobility and Gentry, who even travelling for their education, spent their money and time, little to their own improvement, or the credit of their Country, frequently collecting mobbs in the streets, by throwing money from their windows; and in their daily actions confirming *Frenchmen* in their unalterable opinions, that the *English* are all immensely rich; and consequently can afford to pay double what a *Frenchman* will for the same article.

People in trade find the *English* custom so vastly beneficial, that they have their lookers-out on purpose to bring them to their shops and taverns, who have a share in the impositions arising: of this I was forewarn'd by an honest *Frenchman*, who, early on my going into *France*, advis'd me never to offer more than one half what they ask'd me; and most frequently (except at *Paris*) I bought what I wanted at that rate.

In justice to the *Parisians* I must say, I ever found them at a word; and as honest, and aboveboard in their dealing, as the most creditable citizens of *London*: these un hospitable and ungenerous proceedings in the other parts of the *French* nation, can be attributed to no other causes than those which I have before mentioned, viz. the imprudent, and extravagant conduct of our young unthinking countrymen.

This

This manner of acting, not only enriches the *French* nation, (which sure! is extremely impolitical) but also falls very heavy on gentlemen who travel in search of health, or knowledge, on slender fortunes: to all such, I am in great hopes the hints I propose to advance, will prove extremely useful.

Humanity, and generosity, no doubt, are amiable qualities, and highly to be commended in people of fortune to proper objects: but if we can afford to be liberal, let us be so to the poor of our own Country; whom duty, as well as inclination, ought to lead us to assist: are there not multitudes of poor in every parish in *England* to attract our pity? and numbers of decay'd families (who have formerly liv'd well) reduc'd by unavoidable misfortunes, to the want of bread, fire, or even a defence against the innumerable attacks and severities of our unhappy climate? relieving those unfortunate people, or ordering while abroad our stewards to relieve them, would be acting like *Englishmen* and *Christians*; and according to holy writ, *laying up for ourselves a Treasure in Heaven*: but surely! to give the other ill judg'd conduct the most favourable gloss imaginable, it can only be deem'd levity, or ostentatious folly.

It would be needless to address myself, on this occasion, to gentlemen of large fortunes, who travel with equipages and servants; they
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even in their own Country will meet with many impositions, which a gentleman travelling privately must naturally avoid: yet this one article I shall recommend to them, not to take abroad their own post chaises, as their slight structure is by no means calculated for the heavy pavement of the *French* roads; having known several gentlemen oblig'd to sell them for no other reason.

My present intention is to give every useful hint I am capable of, to those gentlemen who are possess'd with a desire of travelling, but are prevented by the apprehension of their income being too small to gratify their curiosity, and attain the improvement every sensible man must propose to reap from such an expedition. I would not be thought to recommend travelling to all men; but every one must agree, that people of sound judgment, and solid sense, return better subjects, more attach'd to the interest of their Country, and of course more useful members to the community, after having seen abroad the deplorable consequences of a despotic, and tyrannical government; consequently, must taste the sweets more amply, that naturally spring, from the humane, judicious, and equitable laws, of which our happy, free constitution is compos'd; and which, with great justice, merits the applause and admiration of all Europe.

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I shall now proceed to equip my adventurer in the following manner.

Should he be an officer, I would have him by all means carry with him his uniform, regimentals; that being the most respectable dress he can possibly appear in, and which, in a great measure, excludes him from many impositions; and entitles him to mess with the *French* officers in any town he may chuse to reside at. This, of all schemes, is the most eligible for him, as they are most of them extremely friendly; men of strict honour, and will at all times, prevent his being impos'd on; as the privileges they enjoy * (tho' their pay is so vastly inferior to ours) make them not only respected, but fear'd by people in business. They all speak good *French*; are very ready to set him right in their language; and as long as he behaves like a man of honour among them, is sure to receive every civility in their power to grant: for their attachment to the *English* officers, (and indeed the *English* in general, from their generous

* A *French* officer is exempted from all taxes except the pole-tax, which is very trifling: there is a duty upon every article, tho' the produce of *France*, which when he buys, is taken off: these, with many other advantages, and the excessive cheapness of every necessary of life, make their pay adequate (if not superior) to the *British* officers. Those of the navy have the same pay in peace as in war; a captain of a frigate's appointment being 3000 livres, and a lieutenant's 1500, which enables them to live genteel, consequently respected wherever they go.

rous and unprecedented conduct to them, when prisoners in the late war) makes them solicitous to serve them: these, preferable to all others in *France*, are the men he should endeavour to be most intimate with; and it is in every *English* gentleman's power to be so in a little time, by frequenting the military coffee-house: but let him not too readily cultivate acquaintance; let him first take a little time to make prudent observations; and those whom he sees are most respected among themselves, are the men I would recommend to his intimacy; for in their corps, as in ours, some do not merit being taken notice of.

I am sorry to observe, the *English* too frequently report them to be gasconades; and ever launching out into encomiums of the virtues of their country, and their military achievements; but I must in justice to them impartially declare, that whenever any argument was brought upon the carpet, wherein military transactions, or national matters were concern'd, I never knew any one of them advance the least word that could give offence to the most partial or delicate ear, or cause the least dispute; and am well convinc'd, from their gentility in that point, as well as all others, that had any one of them been unpolite enough to attempt it, he would, by the majority of themselves, have been most severely rebuk'd.

It is evident from what I have said (which is grounded on fact) those are men worthy our traveller's acquaintance ; he should therefore cultivate it invariably ; it will now and then be requisite to ask them to his chamber to breakfast, which is all the expence attending it ; as he will dine and sup with them at their *Auberge*, or Tavern : this expence is seldom more, and most frequently less, than 50 livres a month ; this is, little more than two guineas ; a livre being about ten-pence half-penny sterling ; for which he is found a dinner and supper, with a desert of fruit, cheese, and sweet meats ; and as much wine as he will drink, which (except in time of *Lent*) an *English* man in health, may always make a shift with.

It may not be improper here to let you into the nature of the *French* coins, which you must pay a strict observance to, as they are difficult to distinguish from each other ; and without proper notice, you will be frequently cheated when buying small matters.

Note, that four farthings make one sol, or penny *French* ; twenty sols, one livre ; and twenty-four livres, one louis d'or, or guinea *English*. The *French* always count in livres, as we do in pounds sterling ; tho' they have no piece of money call'd a livre : a farthing is about the size of ours ; but seldom any stamp or impression upon it : a two farthing piece, is less than our half-penny ; and a sol,
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somewhat larger : a fix-farthing piece, is a thin piece of copper, and so like the two-penny piece, that without attention it is very difficult to distinguish them ; tho' with a little care it is easily done ; the former, being mark'd thus L L. the latter, thus L. and slightly wash'd with silver : the fix sols, piece is like our silver three-pence : the twelve sols piece, is of the same size of our six-pence : the twenty-four sols piece, is like our shilling : the half - crown, is three livres : the crown piece, is six livres ; four of which make a louis d'or, which is about the size and value of our guinea.

If you draw, while abroad, on a banker in *France*, you generally are charg'd seven or eight pounds per cent. discompt ; but if on a *French* merchant, who wants to transmit money to *London*, it is generally done at par ; this therefore is the most saving method, but then you must always wait 'till they have a confirmation that your bill is honour'd.

Into a small trunk I would have you put a dozen of shirts ; they ought to be much coarser than the *English* in general wear them ; otherwise, their slovenly manner of washing (which is by beating them with a board against a stone in cold water) will soon oblige you to buy others ; half a dozen pair of shoes ; a pair of boots, and buckskin breeches, would be requisite ; as the

French leather is not proof against water ; your stockings, should be silk, which is the fashion of *France*, even among the meanest mechanicks ; these, with the cloaths on your back, and the hat on your head, with the best *French* dictionary and grammar extant, are all the luggage you ought to take ; for at the first town you propose to reside at, you should fit out *a la mode de France*, and continue so as long as you stay in that country : don't think this advice unseasonable ; as an *English* dress, is a sufficient object for *French* knavery : it would be wrong to buy more things at a time than are requisite ; as you can recruit your stock at every town you come to, or chuse to continue at for some time. I had almost forgot two very necessary articles called a knife and fork ; which if you neglect taking with you, you'll often run the hazard of losing your dinner ; it being the custom of those very polite people (women, as well men) to lug out their great sharp-pointed knives when going to their meals ; as there are seldom any laid on the table, except call'd for ; and when they appear (if they had any edge) an *Englishman* would suppose they were made to stick a roasting pig ; and as to their forks, which are made in the shape of spoons, with three prongs, they are equally useless, or unhandy.

It

It will naturally occur to you to get letters of credit on Mr. *Foley*, or any other banker at *Paris*, and these will be sufficient to conduct you through *France*, as he will give you recommendations from town to town; without which, if you have ever so much money in your pocket, you will neither be well receiv'd, or respected; as too many of our countrymen fly to *France*, for reasons not to their own reputation: if you can procure other letters to any of the creditable inhabitants of a town, they will be greatly instrumental to your passing your time more agreeably, as the *French* are always fond of company; and indeed! shew great hospitality to strangers, when genteelly recommended.

In any town you chuse to reside at, you should soon, after your arrival, pay your compliments to the intendant, and other principal officers: this method, is, not only genteel, but political, as you may have many causes for redress, from the natural injustice, and inclination to villainy, hourly practis'd by the common people; and whilst you are an inhabitant of any town in *France*, you are under the protection of the intendant, and have a right to claim it, whenever occasion offers; and should he be slow in the administration of justice (as indeed they too frequently are) there is our ambassador at *Paris*, to remonstrate to; who,
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if he pleases, may get him most severely reprimanded for not having done his duty. I may venture to assert, (from some circumstances wherein I myself was concerned) that were the *English* to exert themselves with becoming spirit, in applying for justice to the fountain head, when ill treated, they would not have so often occasion to do it; and might be more certain to meet with less difficulties, better treatment and respect, whilst on their travels: but, I am concern'd to observe, that most of them being too indolent to put themselves to a little trouble or expence, in defence of justice, will pay a most imposing bill, and too frequently put up with abusive treatment; which is (in my opinion) inconsistent with the character of a man of honour. I have known these rascals, when they have fallen into the hands of proper spirited men, (who were too just in themselves, tacitly to put up with such horrid impositions) made such severe examples of, that the very name of an *English* man, spread a terror, and were respected ever after in the country where it happen'd: wherefore it is obvious from what I have said, that the impositions and disrespect which travellers meet with, totally proceed from their own indolence; and that they are not equally respected through all *France*.

The

The *French* king (like all other wise political monarchs) knows extremely well, that it is the interest of his kingdom to make the residence of foreigners in it as agreeable as possible. The ill treatment the Corps of General *Brown*, and Colonel *Forester* received, are too recent, (having been in the publick papers) to have escap'd the world; but I can with pleasure acquaint my reader, that his *French* majesty was not only pleas'd to declare his royal disapprobation of such indecent, and unprecedented proceedings, but ignominiously turned out of considerable employments all the principals concerned; assuring the *English* ambassador, that nothing could be more displeasing to him, than that any of his subjects should be guilty of an action, that could in the least degree render the residence of any strangers (particularly the *English*) disagreeable within his dominions; and that he would forthwith send a general order throughout *France* for that purpose.

Upon change every day is to be met with, the master of a *French* trader; whose price to *Calais*, *Dunkirk*, or *Boulogne*, is only a guinea each passenger: the passage is commonly made in sixteen, or twenty hours: this scheme is more commendable than going to *Dover*; where, should you chance to be wind-bound, it will cost you at least half a guinea a day; however, as you may take your choice,
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I shall suppose you landed at *Calais*, your trunk search'd at the Bureau, and lodged at either the Silver Lyon, or Table Royal; extravagant Houses both! therefore let your stay in that town, be as short as possible; walk round the ramparts; and when you have examined the fortifications, (which you may do without interruption, if you have a cockade in your hat,) you will have seen every thing worthy a strangers inspection.

In your walks you should buy a small map, which will cost you twenty four sols, or a shilling sterling, entiled *Les routes des postes du Royaume de France*, that is, *the Rout of the post roads of the kingdom of France*: this, always keep in your pocket; it will inform you with great exactness throughout the kingdom, the names of every town and village you go through, and the distance it is from *Paris*: also buy *le nouveau voyage de France*, that is, *the new voyage of France*, it is in two pocket volumes, and will cost you only five livres; these books are extremely necessary and entertaining upon the road, as they furnish maps of every rout you can take, and are essentially useful in the towns, as they will point out to you their curiosities, situations, manufactures, number of their inhabitants, and every thing else you could wish to learn, without asking a single question.

At

At your return to the inn, enquire if there is any company going to *Paris*; who, without the least ceremony, you should wait on, of whatsoever nation they may be, and tell them you would be glad to join company with them: this may appear strange to an *English* man; but it is what is practis'd in *France* every day: by this method of acting, you will have only one horse to pay for; which of course, will save you one half of your expences; otherwise, you must take a guide with you.

There is what they call a stage coach from *Calais* to *Paris*; by which, you may send your trunk; but by no means think of entering into this disingenious *French* invention, which is more like to *Noah's Ark*, than to any thing else I can compare it, and is seven days on its journey to *Paris*.

Should you set out in the morning, you will breakfast at *Boulogne*, an antient, dirty sea port town; but if you have any time, visit the citadel, or high town, which is all that's worthy your observation.

You will dine at *Abbeville*; situated on an eminence, a neat, pretty town, and not far distant from the sea; well inhabited by people of fashion; and every kind of provision extreamly cheap, but by no means calculated for an *English* man to reside at, who would learn the *French* language with any correctness; as it is most corruptly
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spoken there. The passing *Montreuil* (which is at a few miles distance, and situated on a lofty hill) should remind us of the memorable actions of our great countryman the Duke of *Marlborough*; who, notwithstanding the whole country round it was laid under water, (which they can do upon a flood-tide by sluices that have a communication with the sea,) yet found means to bribe the governor; who, in passive obedience, ordered the sluices to be opened in the night upon the ebb; and in the morning, that experienced general was in possession of the out-works; and in a few days after, master of the town: however, the governor was not suspected; and all would have been well, had not the duke imprudently (in an amorous fit, I suppose,) reveal'd that important secret to *Sarah* his dutchess, who set it a going, and on it went, till it reach'd the ears of *Louis* the XIV. who ordered the governor the reward due to his infidelity.

As I advis'd you not to take up your abode at *Abbeville*, on account of the insufferable jargon spoke there; let me point out to you for that purpose, *Amiens*, the capital of *Picardie*; at which place you will arrive the next day: this is a clean, though antient town, very disagreeable in the autumn, or in winter, as it rains most of that time: but in the spring, and summer

mer, there are few pleasanter towns in all *France*. It is situated on the banks of the river *Somme*, in the midst of a most beautiful, fertile, and extensive plain, abounding with game, which you are at liberty to pursue whenever you please; as I imagine you have paid your compliments to the principal officers as before directed.

The ramparts all round the town afford most delightful walks; as do several of the outlets; and there are frequent amusements upon the water in summer, and abundance of genteel company reside there; always a battalion of infantry, and a detachment of the king's body-guards. There is generally a concert once a week, which is open to all strangers; and they have a mall as genteely frequented as any of the walks at *Paris*.

There is a *French* person whose name is *Goasoong* or *Goshong*, as we pronounce it, that lives near the cathedral, who takes in boarders at 600 livres, that is twenty five guineas per annum, and has most commonly some *Parisian* gentlemen; of whom (if you are not idle,) you may easily learn the true *French* accent: I mention this as some might not chuse to mess with the *French* officers.

Wherefore any gentleman who wants to get hold of the *French* language, before he goes to *Paris*, cannot (in my opinion) do

better, than spend at least six months in this town, as it is little frequented by the *English*; (except in passing) who, when they get together (as at *Paris*,) will naturally speak their own mother tongue; consequently prevent their attaining the *French* language. You may there get a monk to come morning and evening to instruct you for half a guinea a month; and for the same price, you will be most pleasingly accommodated with a chamber near the cathedral, which is the genteelest quarter of the town: you will be furnished with a servant for twenty four sols, that is, a shilling a day, who finds himself lodging; and all other necessaries: however, should you not chance to make any stay at *Amiens*, you ought by all means to visit the *Chateau d'eau*, that is, the water castle, and the cathedral; the latter was built by the *English* in the *Gothic* taste, and is, by much, the most superb edifice of the kind that I saw throughout *France*.

This town is thirty leagues from *Paris*, thirty one from *Calais*; has fourteen churches, and is supposed to contain 30,000 inhabitants. It is extremely commercial, on account of the vast manufactories carried on there in the woollen way, such as plushes, camblets, serges, &c.

There is no town of any consequence between *Amiens* and *Paris*, though it is well worth

worth your while to stop at *Chantilly*, and visit the palaces, park, and gardens of the Prince of *Conti*, which, to examine with care, will take you up a day; they are magnificent beyond description; and will open to you new scenes of pleasure every moment: If the prince should be there, it will be no manner of hindrance to your seeing them, as his affability makes him extremely polite on these occasions.

You will frequently see in the road, several miles distant from this terrestrial paradise, hares, partridges, and pheasants, enjoying with the most undaunted assurance, the happy protection of this absolute prince, for to kill any one of them, is no less punishment, than perpetual slavery to the galleys.

From this place you will pass through *St. Dennis*, which is the burial place of the Royal Family; and where all the jewels of the crown are deposited; but as it is within two leagues of *Paris*, it will not be necessary to stop, as you may make it an agreeable day's recreation, during your residence in the metropolis of all *France*, where you are now conducted to.

The first thing to attract your admiration, is the curious workmanship of the beautiful gate, which forms the entrance of this gay city: It was erected as a triumphal arch to *Lewis* the XIV. on his return from his victories;

tories ; and is an emblem of the taste, magnificence, and attachment to their king, which so abundantly prevails amongst this volatile people, who are blest with such happy constitutions, as never to let their minds be long affected by the bad successes of either private, or publick matters.

The first step you are to take, is (before you wait on your banker) to fix yourself in lodgings, as the less trouble you give him, the better he will be pleased, (except in money matters, which naturally turn to his own emolument.) You are first then to understand, that at *Paris*, it is not ungenteel, (though it is highly so in *London*,) to receive your visitors in the same room where your bed is ; few single gentlemen (be their fortune what it will) have more than one chamber ; and I very frequently have visited officers who were knights of *Malta* and *St. Louis*, upon the fourth and fifth floor : this being the custom of the town, it is no manner of reflection ; the furniture in general is equally good through all the apartments of the house : I own, and sincerely wish for the good of mankind, that such were the custom of *London* ; where the exorbitant price of lodgings, (added to the excessive dearness of every other article,) totally puts it out of the power of people of slender incomes (particularly officers) to reside therefor any time, be their business ever so pressing.

About

About ten o'clock in the morning, take a hackney coach from the Inn where you slept, and order him to drive you to the *Luxembourg gardens*, in French, *Aux Jardins de Luxembourg*; at your entrance into them you will see several print shops, at one of which, you should buy, a small map entitled *le Plan de Paris*, that is, the *plan of Paris*; which will cost you only twelve sols, and with proper attention will make you better acquainted in two days, with the situation of *Paris* than you could possibly be in six months without it; especially as the names of the streets, as in the chart, are wrote up at every corner.

Ten to one, but you will meet in the gardens, with some of your acquaintance; however should that not happen, I would have you without loss of time, look out in the *Ruë de Tournon*, the *Ruë de Bucherie*, the *Ruë Dauphine*, or the *Ruë de la Harpe*, and in any one of those streets, you are sure to see several boards hanging out, with *Chambre a Louer presentment*, that is, a *chamber to lett*; you are certain to be accommodated to your satisfaction for (at most) a guinea a month on the first floor: this, is the most fashionable quarter of the City, where all the *English* reside, and near the play-house, the opera, the eating houses, and the *English* coffee-house; by frequenting the latter you will no doubt be accosted by many
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shining heroes bedaub'd with lace, either of the *Scotish*, *Irish*, or *English* nation; asking you where you lodge, how long you have been in town? and offering you any civilities in their power; but by no means accept of any of their services; and behaving at the same time with reserve, (except you know them), as they are in general knights of industry, and have no other way of living, than by gaming and taking-in their young unwary countrymen; many of whom I hope may be prevented from falling into their fatal snares by the publication of these sheets. There are many *French* coffee-houses of reputation in the same street, which are much more preferable to frequent, on account of learning the *French* language; as the hearing it distinctly spoken, and reading much, are the most essential helps to accomplish that point. I do not mean by what I have advanc'd, to exclude my country-men wholly from the *English* coffee-house, as it is extremely natural to wish to read the *English* papers, and see what acquaintances are in town; but I would recommend it always to be done in the morning, for the reasons I have above assign'd, which I imagine are very sufficient to object against its being made the place to spend your evenings in.

When you are fix'd in your lodgings, it will be highly requisite to wait on your banker;

banker; he will return your visit, which will give you some weight in the house where you lodge; for though the *French* are less cautious than the *English* in letting their apartments; they are always best pleased, and treat with greatest civility, those who are known to some people of credit. Desire your banker to recommend you a servant, which he can do with little trouble to himself: this done, you need be under no apprehensions of being robb'd by him: (which sometimes happens by taking those of slight characters:) the people where you lodge will procure you a barber; who, for five livres a month, will furnish you with powder, pomatum, and dress your hair every day, at what hour you please. The best eating houses, are in the *Ruë de Boucherie*, the *Ruë de la Harper*, or near the *Tuilleries*, where you may dine extremely well, besides a desert of whatever fruit is in season, and a pint of burgundy for thirty sols, about fourteen pence sterling. By this time, I shall suppose you compleatly settled, and want nothing, but to be introduced to the curiosities, in and about *Paris*. For that purpose, I would have you purchase *La Description de Paris, par Germain Brice*, that is, *the description of Paris, by Germain Brice*: it is in four pocket volumes, and will cost you only eight livres, or seven shillings

English money; they contain, not only the most exact and faithful narrative of all the curiosities of *Paris*, but also present to your view several well engraved copper-plates of all the publick edifices which attract the attention of foreigners: those books are wrote in a most easy and plain style; and to those who understand *French*, are the best guides they can possibly take with them; but as I suppose there may be many not sufficiently acquainted with that language to make them useful, I shall point out every object worthy their notice.

As it would be both tedious, and disagreeable, if you have no acquaintance at *Paris*, to ramble the streets alone; I would recommend you, in such case, to pay your compliments to the Prior of the *English* convent (which is near the church *de val de Grace*,) and ask him, as a favour, to let one of the young monks attend you. This he will do with pleasure, and any of them will be happy to accept of the office, as they are friendly, good natured lads; and never more pleased than when they see their countrymen; or can render them any civilities: all the expences attending this, is, to treat them while with you; and, if you please to present them a small present at parting, it will be extremely acceptable.

You will see in this convent two coffins, wherein are king *James* the II. and the prin-

princess his daughter, uninterr'd: on my asking, why they were so? they told me, (in a ludicrous manner,) that when a revolution was brought about in *England*, they were to be buried with their ancestors in *Westminster Abbey*. I told them I was concern'd for their good folks, for I was sure they would ever remain in the same position they then were; a *French* shrug of the shoulders (as a mark of approbation) was all the answer I received: my reader, no doubt, will pardon the digression, as it is an interesting one; therefore shall now proceed to point out every curiosity which merits inspection in that city; not one of which should escape, as there is a pleasing variety to be observ'd through the whole.

Paris is divided into three principal parts, named, *La Cité*, that is, the *City*. *L'université*, the university. and *La Ville*, the *Town*. The curiosities are as follow, which I shall put down in *French*, as they will by that means be easiest found out. *Le Louvre*. *Le Cabinet des Tableaux du Roi*. *Le Cabinet des Livres du Roi*. *L'academie Francoise*. *L'academie Roiale des belles Lettres*. *L'academie Roiale des sciences*. *L'academie Roiale d'architecture*. *L'academie Roiale de Peinture*. *Les Antiques du Roi*. *Le Garde Meuble du Roi*. *Le Palais des Tuileries, et les Jardins*. *La grande Gallarie du Louvre*. *Le Cours de la Reine*, *La Manufacture Royale*

*Royale de Savonnerie. L'Eglise de St. Germain aux errois. Le Palais Royale, et les Jardins. L'Opera. L'Eglise St. Roch. Le Couvent des Jacobins reformez. Le Couvent des Feuillans. L'Eglise des Capucins. L'Eglise des Filles de l'assomption. La Place de Louis le Grand. Le Statue Equestre du Roi Louis le grand. Le Couvent des Capucines. * Le Tombeau de Monsieur de Crequi. Le Tombeau de Monsieur de Lornois. La Bibliotheque Roiale. L'Hotel d'Antin. La Place Victoire. L'Hotel de Thoulouse. Le Couvent des Augustins. Dechausses. L'Hotel des Fermes du Roi. L'Hotel de Soisson. L'Eglise de St. Eustache. Le Tombeau de Monsieur Colbert. L'Hotel de Bourgogne. La Fontaine de St. Innocent. La Porte de St. Dennis. La Maison des Pretres de la Maison de St. Lazare, La Porte St. Martin. Le Couvent des Recolets. Le Temple. L'Hotel de Soubize. La Maison D'amelot de Biscul. L'Abbai Royale de Val de Grace. L'Hotel de Ville. L'Observatione Roiale. L'Eglise de St. Gervais. Le Portail de St. Gervais. Le Tombeau de Chancelier de Tellier. La Maison de professe des Jesuits, La Place Roiale,*

* On the left hand going into this convent, madame *Pompadour* is buried in a small chappel, lined throughout with the choicest marble that *Italy* could produce; which, with many magnificent ornaments, cost the king ten thousand pounds sterling; in honour of her memory the nuns of this convent (to whom she was always a kind benefactress), hold divine service three times a week for the repose of her soul.

Roiale. le Couvent des Minimes. le Couvent des Filles de la Visitation de St. Marie. la Bastille. la Porte St. Antoine. La Manufacture des Glaces. l'arc de Triomphe. le Chateau de Vincennes. le Couvent des Celestins. l'Arsenal. l'Eglise de St. Paul. la Maison du President Lambert de Thorigny. la Maison de Britton Villiers. l'Eglise de St. Louis. la Porte St. Bernard. l'Abbaye Roiale St. Victoir. le Jardin Roiale. l'Hopital de Saltpetriere. le Goblins, et la Tappissierie. l'Eglise de St. Nicholas du Chardonet. l'Abbaye Roiale de St. Genevieve du Mont. le Couvent des Mathurins. le College Roiale. le College de Louis le Grand. le Couvent des Carmelites, (the most curious in Paris, and of which order of nuns the queen is the protectress,) Grand Autel de Val de Grace. le Couvent des Chartereux. la Sorbonne. le Tombeau du Cardinal de Richelieu. le Palais de Thormes. Grand Autel de notre Dame. la Maison de St. Cosme, ou l'Ecole de Chirurgie. les Representations Anatomiques en Cire Coleree. le Couvent des Cordeliers. l'Abbaye Roiale de St. Germain de Prez. l'Eglise de notre Dame. Grand Autel de l'Abbaye St. Germain. le Palais, de Luxenbourg; and the Pictures which are within l'Hotel de Condé. le Couvent des Carmes dechaussez. l'Eglise de St. Sulpice. l'Hotel Royale des Invalids. le grand Autel des Invalids. le Tombeau du Cardinal Mazerin. le Couvent du Noviciat des Jacobins reformer. le Theatre de la Comedie Françoise. le Couvent des grands Augustins,

Augustins. l'Hotel de Conty. le Couvent des Theatins. la Figure Equestre du Roi Henry Quatre. la Samaritaine. la Bibliotheque des Avocats. l'Hotel Dieu. l'Hopital des Infans Trouves, la Communauté des Peintures et Sculptures. le Palais. la Cour des Aides. la St. Chapelle. la Chambre des Comptes. les Ponts de Paris. le Colege des quatre nations ; which are France, Picardie, Normandie, and Germany: the English formerly was term'd the fourth nation, 'till by our invasions and victories in France, we had rendered ourselves odious, and, I may say, terrible to them ; on which they took down our arms, and put up those of the Germans in their room. These to the best of my knowledge, are every thing within the walls of Paris that merit a stranger's notice. I would recommend it to every gentleman to put down in black and white when he returns at night to his lodgings, all the observations he may have made during the day, as well as the informations he may have received ; such notes will not only be extremely amusing to him, when in other countries, but will also be a sure means of imprinting the more lively ideas of them on his mind ; without such precaution, it is natural to suppose, that such a variety of objects, will cause the most confus'd notions, and in the end will totally obliterate the beauty of them from his memory.

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It is to be hoped that by this time, you have met with some of your acquaintances, with whom it will be agreeable to make a party to visit the king's palaces at *Versailles* and *Marly*; for which purpose you should by all means buy *La Nouvelle Description des Chateaux, et Parcs de Versailles, et Marly*. That is, *the new description of the Castles and Parks of Versailles, and Marly*: it is printed in two pocket volumes, and will cost you only *five livres*. Those books are extremely essential to your examining with accuracy all the curiosities of each place; they contain well engrav'd copper-plates of all the superb buildings, beautiful basons, and exquisite statues, with which those enchanting abodes are so artfully ornamented; those two little volumes well explain to you, in the most intelligent manner, the history of every picture in each chamber; many of which give the most flattering representations of their military achievements; and indeed, shews us most conspicuous emblems of the pride and vanity so predominant in the *French* nation: one of them in particular struck me with indignation, as it sets forth (to the publick view of all nations) a most lively description of what will remain a blot in the *English* escutcheon time immemorial: it is the acquisition of *Dunkirk*; which town, *Louis* the XIV. bought of king *Charles* the II. for the sum of five million

million of livres in *November*, 1662, about 219000*l.* sterling. In this piece, *Britannia* is represented kneeling, and offering, in the most submissive manner, the keys of the town to *France*, who (under the figure of a woman) is seated on a most magnificent throne, and with great haughtiness express'd on her countenance, hastily snatches the keys from the hands of the heretick, (who with great justice indeed,) is blindfolded, and surrounded with books and papers, in the utmost confusion. There are many other paintings equally ostentatious, which would be too tedious to mention.

This delightful excursion, properly executed, will take you up at least four or five days; the most proper time to set out upon it, is, when any foreign ambassador makes his first appearance at court; as, in compliment to him, the water-works in the gardens, all play on that day; but should you chance to be at *Paris*, on a Whitsunday, *La Fete de Pentecoste* in *French*, that is the time preferable to any other throughout the year, that you ought to be at *Versailles*; on which day you will see the most numerous and brilliant court in *Europe*, as the king and queen, with all the royal family, all the princes of the blood, and all the nobility of *France*, pass, and repass in procession several different times, and so slowly, that you may make your observations so just, as to know
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any of them personally ever after: the king sups in publick, and the queen dines in the same manner. *

You will see at *St. Germain's*, (which is not far distant from *Versailles*) a most spacious, but irregular, and antient palace, which with the park and gardens, are falling to ruin. It is said to be large enough to contain three thousand men, and was the residence of *James the II.* its situation, (which is on a lofty hill,) commands a most extensive and beautiful prospect, and exceeds by far, any of the king's other palaces; and the air is reputed to be the best about *Paris*.

Having now seen *Versailles*, *Marly* and *St. Germain's*, you must next visit the machine of *Marly*, which is contiguous to those places; where wood and iron are united, to form the most wonderful piece of machinery the world can boast of; and of such reputation, as to attract the curious from the most distant regions: this admirable engine is constructed on the river *Seine*, and compos'd of

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* I honestly confess, what pleas'd me most amidst all this splendid gaiety, was the lovely appearance that two of my amiable country women made at court; who without patch, paint, or powder, rival'd all the *French* dolls; for women, they certainly do not merit being nominated, when thus abominably disguis'd: I had the pleasure to hear the word pass from one to the other, *Voilà les charments Angloises*, (that is) *there are the charming English ladies*. Our women, our horses, and dogs, (I hope the fair will pardon this rude medley) are sure to be admired through all parts of *France*, for their beauty, gentility, and many excellent qualities they possess; and which indeed few countries in *Europe* can equal.

fourteen large wheels, which keep going (night and day) two hundred and twenty six pumps; by the force of which, six thousand tuns of water, are conveyed in twenty four hours, into a reservoir on the top of a hill, which stands upon thirty six lofty arches, and is seventy two hundred feet long; is distant from the river side, three thousand six hundred and sixty feet, and five hundred feet perpendicular from the pumps; fifty smiths, carpenters, and other workmen, are constantly employed to keep the different movements in order, as some defect daily occurs; it is by this means the king's gardens at *Versailles* and *Marly* are supply'd with water, being conducted thither, through iron pipes of eighteen inches diameter: the whole expence attending this machine, is said to amount annually to twenty five thousand pounds sterling; this (though a feint description) may in some measure prove useful; I own I would attempt a more explicit one, did it not exceed my ability to give an adequate idea of it in all its perfections.

On your return, you should by all means visit *St. Cloude*, and *Belle Vueë*; the former is the country seat of the duke of *Orleans*, and the latter was that of madame *Pompadour*; they will open to your view, a variety of pleasing fancies, though just come from the king's palaces: the above tour you may perform

perform by water, if you please, and will cost you very little money; and in my opinion, (even was not frugality to be consulted) is much more pleasing, especially in summer, as you will have a multiplicity of beautiful prospects on each side of the river: should you approve of this scheme, you will at all hours of the day find boats at the *Tuillerie* stairs, whose fare, to *St. Cloude*, is only two pence; it is an agreeable walk of two hours through the duke of *Orleans's* park to *Versailles*; and through *Versailles* park to *Marly* and *St. Germain's*, will take you up about the same time; or if you chuse to go by land, the coaches (twice a day) set out from the *Rue St. Honoré* for any of those places; their price for each passenger, half a crown: while you are on this excursion, always know what is to be for dinner or supper; and what you are to pay for it, before it is put down to the fire; also, taste the wine you are to drink, and call for the quantity you propose to use, all at once; if you do not act thus, you are sure to have a most exorbitant bill, and bad wine, at the conclusion of your meal. If you do not like their terms at one inn, you can go to another. I have known them (upon our threatening to do so,) come down more than one half what they at first ask'd; therefore this is a sure means to avoid their horrid impositions.

You are now return'd to your lodgings at *Paris*, and I suppose the next point in view, is to see the king's palaces at *Choisy* and *Fontainebleau*; neither of which, indeed! merit the least attention, except it is to say you have seen them: the former being much inferior to many of our nobility's country houses, and the latter being a most ponderous and irregular pile of building, which with the park, are going to ruin: it is situated in a desert, commanding no other prospect than that of a chain of barren rocks, at about a mile and half distance; and by which, the palace, park, and gardens are entirely environ'd: true it is, there are several very fine sluices of water in the gardens, some of which contain carp, grown white with age, and of a monstrous size, many of them, (as they told me,) were a hundred years old.

Choisy is four leagues from *Paris*; and *Fontainebleau* fourteen; the former, bordering close on the river *Seine*; and the latter, not more than a mile and half distant from it: should you be curious enough to wish to see them, you may do it at a very easy rate by water, as there are boats at the *Porte St. Paul*, which are extremely commodious for passengers, that go, and come, every day: put a little cold provision in your pocket, and you will find a bottle of tolerable good burgundy in the boat for twelve sols.

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The king annually spends three months in the hunting season at *Fontainbleau*; then is the time to see it: but as to *Choisey*, he only dines at it now and then; which when he does, and has finished the first service or course, down drops the table through the floor, and up comes another as quick as thought, completely serv'd, without spoiling gravy or soup, or putting any article into the least disorder: this ingenious method is repeated at every service, and affords great mirth when any foreign princes are at table; knowing nothing of the matter, it alarms them much, in short, this is all that is curious at *Choisey*.

You must now (being fatiated, I presume, with the amusements of this volatile city,) resolve upon going to the southward.

You must take the rout of *Lyons*, instead of that of *Orleans*; which will save you at least twelve guineas; for I shall land you at *Avignon*, which is one hundred and forty eight leagues from *Paris*, without travelling by land any more than forty three leagues, which is from *Auxerre* to *Challan*: was you to take the rout of *Orleans*, you could not possibly return by water as I propose you shall go; for it is never practis'd on account of the rapidity of the current, which frequently runs in the *Rhene*, at the rate of seven or eight miles an hour; and to travel by land is extremely expensive, and would
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make the difference, (if not more than) I have above calculated; it is also, in my opinion, much more pleasant, was not frugality (as before observed) to be considered; as the agreeable company you are ever sure to meet with in those boats; and the variety of delightful prospects that every minute open to your view, will make the time pass joyously; and all this, without the fatigue of being jolted in a villainous stage coach, containing in general fourteen passengers; and if in summer, suffocated with the dust and heat; resolve therefore upon this method, as believe me it is the best you can pursue. The patrons of these boats are always to be found at *Port St. Paul*, from whence they go three times a week to *Auxerre*, which is thirty three leagues from *Paris*; they are most comfortably constructed, being deck'd high enough to walk under, and fast'd on each side: for this trip, you will only pay five livres, and a halfpenny a pound for your baggage, and will perform it in two days and a half; they have ten horses to drag the boat, no sails being made use of; they will dress you a dinner or supper, for twenty or thirty sols, and furnish you with good wine; so that you may enjoy yourself as comfortably as in an eating house.

These are the only boats that do not stop to dine, and lie; all the rest that I shall hereafter conduct you to, do both. This fatigue

tigue may be dispensed with for a couple of nights, as it is more than probable you may have a *tête à tête*, with some of the *French* ladies, who are on these occasions, extremely agreeable and entertaining.

You are to observe, that there are different apartments in these boats, and that they who go farthest in them, have always the preference, as they may perhaps drop two thirds of their passengers before they reach their journeys end.

Having hinted at the affability of the ladies, I think it may be highly necessary to advise you to be extremely cautious in your amours, (if any you propose.)

The air of the Southern parts of *France* is warm, and impregnating, consequently the women extremely amorous, and the majority of them have it in their power (and indeed use very little ceremony) to confer upon you a certain favour, which if it does not cost you your life, may stick by you all your days; it being reputed to be equally destructive as that of the *Neapolitans*; the surgeons in that country make a very serious affair of such an accident, and will run you up a bill of fifty guineas before you can look round you. A misfortune of this nature, will throw your frugality out of window, set your constitutions on the rack, and totally overset all your laudable schemes in
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going abroad: therefore by all means avoid such danger.

You will no doubt be frequently accosted in the streets, by fellows who are lookers-out to bawdy-houses; asking you, if you want a *jolie fille*; and happy are they, when they can lay hold of an *English* man, as the girls say, they *bleed freely*: the reward on those occasions, is to break your cane over their shoulders; for many unguarded foreigners, have been seduced by those notorious villains, into places from whence they have never more made their appearance. This I hope will sufficiently caution you not to let their diabolical plots succeed.

I shall suppose you to be now landed at *Auxerre* in *Burgundy*, an antient dirty town, built on the side of a hill, and extremely irregular; abounding with multitudes of churches and convents, few of which merit any notice. The bishop's palace is reputed to be the finest in *France*, which is all that is curious here. The *Petit-paris* is the best inn, and very convenient, as it is next door to the bureau, from whence the stage-coaches set out: it sometimes happens that you will be obliged to wait two or three days for the coach; should that be the case, and you should be alone (which is not likely to happen,) agree for so much a meal; and for three livres five sols a day, you will be accom-

accommodated to your wish, with a bottle of good burgundy at each meal, if you chuse it: if you do not use this precaution, they will probably charge you double that sum.

Instead of taking your place in the *Challon* coach, I would have you take it in that of *Dijon*, which will cost you only fourteen livres; by this means you will have the pleasure of seeing that town, which being the capital, was where the duke of *Bourgundy* kept his court, before that province was united to the crown of *France*. Here the *French* language is spoke with greater propriety than at *Paris*, or any other town in the kingdom; though *Blois* had formerly that reputation. I do not know any town in *France* preferable to this, for the residence of any gentleman, 'till he has perfected himself in the *French* tongue.

It is a parliament town; ever neat and clean; situated in a most pleasing, healthy, and extensive plain, and hath delightful walks both within and without its walls; many curiosities are to be seen there, and for six hundred livres, you may lodge and board in the greatest decency, with the counsellors of the parliament. There are abundance of gentry live here on slender fortunes, with the greatest comfort; all kinds of provisions being extremely cheap: the young gentlemen of the town are very polite to strangers, and have many agreeable amusements which

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are not expensive; in short all its inhabitants shew an hospitality, and generosity, that I met not with, in any other part of *France*.

The prince of *Condi* has a palace in the center of the town, with a most superb statue in front, of *Louis* the XIV. on horse-back; and about a mile distant, he has also a most delightful park, which all the gentry frequent on holidays: the walks are so compleatly shaded, as to protect you entirely from the sun-shine, which would be otherwise extremely inconvenient.

Dijon is sixty eight leagues S. W. of *Paris*, and contains about ten thousand inhabitants, has no trade except for wines, which are famous all the world over; and in these, their principal riches consist. The hospital, the *Jesuits* hall, the *chartereux*, and many other things are worthy your observation, which the *Nouveau voyage*, as I said before, will point out, without your asking a single question.

Before you depart from this city, you should make a party, and visit *Besançon* and *Citeau*; the former being one of the strongest frontier garrisons belonging to *France*; and the latter the richest body of monks in the kingdom; whose revenue is scarce known; but supposed to be half a milion of livres annually, about £11375. this convent is only four leagues from *Dijon*, and obliged to entertain all strangers with hospitality and politeness:

liteness: they never eat meat, but you will see at their table perhaps fifty dishes of fish, eggs, and garden stuff, served up in the most elegant and delicious manner; with the most exquisite wines that *Italy* or *France* can produce. Thus those useless muck-worms live: at your departure from this convent, you are sure to be attack'd by perhaps an hundred half-starved miserable objects, prancing after you in wooden shoes, and scarce a covering to keep out the cold.

You are now return'd, and have taken your place in the stage for *Challon*, which is fourteen leagues, and will cost you six livres. You will dine at *Beaune*, a town famous for little else than its excellent wines; and a well managed comfortable hospital, which has elegant apartments detach'd from those of the common people, ever ready to receive strangers of any nation, who may chance to be taken ill upon the road; he may suit himself from twenty sols, to six livres a day; and is found medicines and advice, at the expence of the crown; what he pays, is supposed to be for the use of the furniture, the broths and other provision, which he may have occasion for. The sick are most carefully attended, by an order of women dress'd in white, with distinguishing marks according to their seniority; many of whom are young and beautiful.

Those nuns hold this profession (though we may naturally suppose it a very disagreeable one) the most meritorious in life; as in obedience to God's ordinance, they feed the hungry, cloath the naked, and assist the distressed.

You will sup at *Challon*, where you will see nothing curious, except another hospital, founded on the same humane regulations as that of *Beaune*; if you have time, it is worthy your observation, as you will there find apartments for the reception of strangers, commanding the most healthy pleasing prospects; and furnished throughout with silk and damask, the very lining of the rooms, and bed covers not excepted.

You will be ply'd on the quey by sailors, some belonging to the *Diligence par eau*, some to the *Coché par eau*, that is, *the diligence by water*, and *the coach by water*; but by all means prefer the *diligence*, as you are sure of better company, and quicker passage. The price to *Lyons* is only eight livres; the distance, twenty four leagues. This machine is much more comfortable than the last you was in, as you will stop to dine, sup, and lie; and on the second day arrive early in the evening at *Lyons*; where the park, and palace royal, are the best inns, and where you are almost sure of meeting with some of your countrymen, who are on their travels :
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you will be entertained at either of those houses in an elegant manner, (lodging included) for four livres ten sols a day; which, though dearer than at *Paris*, you must make a shift with for the little time you intend staying in this most extravagant town; where a lodging room on the second floor, will cost you at least a guinea a month.

Lyons, 100 leagues S. W. of *Paris*, is built on the extreme point of a peninsula, form'd on the one side by the *Rhone*, and on the other the *Saone*; both of which make a junction a little below *Lyons*, and empty themselves into the *Mediterranean* sea: this happy situation; (being esteem'd the center of *Europe*) added to the indefatigable ingenuity and industry of 150,000 inhabitants, render it extremely commercial: their manufactures consist of gold and silver stuffs, all manner of silks, velvets and laces; silk stockings, and various sorts of woollen goods: it is esteem'd the second city in *France*, and yields to none (except *Paris*) for trade, riches, and magnificent buildings; the houses (which are computed to be 7000,) are entirely built of free stone; and would make a noble appearance, was it not for the extreme narrowness of the streets which are badly paved, and ever dirty; and the villainous ragged paper windows, with which every house, (except those of the richest merchants) is so abominably defaced: there are
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the remains of a multiplicity of *Roman* antiquities; such as baths, aqueducts, amphitheatres, &c. which, with several convents and churches, merit notice: the cathedral is a fine *Gothic* structure, particularly famous for its curious clock, and the variety of its motions; at every hour, a cock at the top claps his wings three times, and crows twice; after which an angel coming out at a door, salutes the virgin *Mary*, and at the same time the Holy Ghost descends, and an image of God the Father presents itself, and gives the benediction: the hand to the minute motion, is in an oval, and yet the point of the hand always touches the edge of it. There are two principal squares in *Lyons*, one called *La place de Louis Le grand*, ornamented in the center with an equestrian statue of that king, placed on a lofty pedestal of white marble, and surrounded by several beautiful marble fountains, which, in honour to his memory, play every holiday: this square is laid out in pleasing walks, with a shady grove on one side, which is much frequented by the gentry and citizens. The other square is called *La Place de Terreaux*, where is to be seen the most magnificent town-hall in *France*; and some say in all *Europe*: It is a large stately building, in the form of an oblong square; and on each side are wings 420 feet in length; in the middle of the front is a cupola, and in the angles

gles, beautiful, projecting pavilions ; the great gate is ornamented with two columns of the *Ionic* order, and leads into a large hall, richly ornamented with pictures of the kings and queens of *France* ; the roof finely painted ; the hospital and charity house are handsome buildings, and said to contain 10,000 souls, who are maintained without being any expence to the city, by two ferry boats that cross the *Rhone* to *Dauphiné*, taking in each boat, a hundred passengers at a time ; the fare is a penny *French*, which every one pays with pleasure, knowing it to be so well applied. I was credibly inform'd that each boat collected of a *Sunday*, or holiday, 1500 livres, which annually must amount to a considerable sum in a *Catholick* country : I sincerely wish, that the income arising from the innumerable ferries in *England*, were applied to the same charitable use ; it could distress no man, as they are always the property of the rich, and would be a comfortable support to the poor and decripp'd in the neighbourhood where they are. The inhabitants of *Lyons* crossing into *Dauphiné*, is only done by way of recreation, as they in so little a time transport themselves from the town to the country. It is highly entertaining to see the various inventions these happy people find out to amuse themselves ; and when tir'd, down they sit on the green, and regale with their cold collation, (which they

they always take with them) in the most perfect tranquility, till the dusk of the evening; then retire home, singing, capering, and dancing; and convincing the thoughtful phlegmatic *English*, who happen to be spectators that they know how to taste the enjoyments of this life; into which we are most certainly sent to be more happy than we, too frequently, make ourselves; or the dark gloomy atmosphere, which so continually hangs over our heads, will suffer us to be in our native climate; though our heavy foods and liquors, (drink I take it,) add greatly to our unhappy hypocondriack disposition.

The play-house here is spacious, and richly ornamented with gildings, and glass branches; all the leaning places faced with crimson velvet, and much more frequented by gay dress'd company than those at *Paris*, and the actors esteem'd equally good; you should, before you leave *Lyons*, visit the *couvent* at *Croix Rousse*; from the gardens of which you have a most delightful and extensive prospect of the *Alps*, and the country adjacent to the city; which is most beautifully variegated with rising grounds, meadows, convents, country seats, gardens, vineyards, &c. the whole forming the most pleasing landscape that the eye can possibly behold.

Having sufficiently satisfied your curiosity, you will now, I suppose, think of taking
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your leave, and depart for *Avignon*, which is 48 leagues distant; you will find the *Diligence par eau*, equally commodious as the last you was in; it stops to dine, sup, and lie; and for eight livres will conduct you thither in great safety in three days; so that you may easily judge of the rapidity of the *Rhone*, as no sail is made use of, except now-and-then to avoid a shoal: when you get a little below *Lyons*, you'll be highly delighted with various and beautiful prospects; the hills on each side are immensely high; castles on the very summit of several of them, which tho' barren in themselves, are made (by industrious hard labour) as fertile as the island of *Calypso*: here peaches, figgs, almonds, plumbs, nectarines, pomgranates, and in short all the fruit that can flatter the taste, or please the eye, are in the greatest abundance; and vines heavily loaded under their purple produce, artfully hanging in festoons from tree to tree, and imposing on their more sturdy neighbours, a fatigue which their own weakness renders them incapable of supporting.

As soon as you pass the bridge of *St. Esprit*, (which crosses the *Rhone* on thirty arches) a fine champaign country, (which is low *Languedoc*) will open on your right, where every thing that contributes to use and pleasure, are in the greatest abundance; you will there see olive trees, and vineyards in the greatest purity and perfection; the former of

which (being an ever-green) renders the country at all seasons most pleasing to the eye: though they are planted thick together, the wheat, and other grain that is sow'd under them, comes to greater perfection than that sow'd in the open fields; the ground never wants manure, as the fatness of the fruit (many of which escape being gathered) supply that defect.

You are now arrived at *Avignon*, one hundred and forty eight leagues from *Paris*, situated on the East side of the *Rhone*: *La Ville de Paris* is the best inn, where you will be accommodated in a genteel manner, (lodging included,) for three livres five sols a day. This town, though in the kingdom of *France*, is governed by the pope, whose *Vice Legat* always resides there, in a palace famous for little else than its antiquity, and situation, as it commands a most pleasing, and extensive prospect, terminating in eminences, diversified with villages, seats, summer houses, vineyards, meadows, and corn-fields: this fertile country affords all the necessaries of life in the greatest plenty, consequently, draws multitudes of people, who live in great decency on very small fortunes. The town is surrounded with a handsome lofty wall, built of free-stone, flank'd here and there with square towers; without which are delightful walks, where on a *Sunday*, or holiday, one is sure to meet with more pretty

pretty women, than I verily believe *Paris* can produce; I own, I thought my self transported, by some magic art, among my fair beauteous country women; on expressing my surprise at so pleasing a sight at a publick table, a lady who sat near me very politely told me, that it was not to be wondered at, as *Avignon* had been for many years, the residence of a vast number of handsome *English* gentlemen, who were obliged to fly their country with the unfortunate *Chevalier* in 45, I told her I was highly sensible of the compliment she paid me, and was happy to find the ladies under the protection of his holiness, were so open and hospitable to strangers, that I esteem'd it a great misfortune I was only a passenger, otherwise I flattered my self, that in a little time, I might (by my own good endeavours) creep into some of their favours, *sans doute Monsieur* with a smile, and a roll of the eye, (which contained more than could a volume) was all the answer the enchanting goddess favoured me with.

The houses are all built of freestone; but the streets narrow, and irregular; the cathedral is a *Gothic* structure, contains vast riches, and admirable paintings, with many relicts, and the medals of nine popes who have resided there. I own I was so ambitious, as to wish myself master of St. *John's* head, which is in solid gold, ornamented with jewels, gold medals,

dals, &c. in the greatest profusion. I am persuaded I could apply it to much better use, as it is only exposed on certain saint's days to be kiss'd by some thousands of people, who come many miles on foot for that purpose, and are so superstitious as to think, they are by that means forgiven all their sins, be they ever so atrocious : to speak truly, they seem in this country so wholly taken up with the care of their souls, that they totally neglect the good of their bodies; being often on their knees, when they ought to be earning their bread.

The police in this City is admirable ; in every quarter of the town, there is a magistrate always sitting to render justice as well to strangers, as the inhabitants: over very Baker's, Butcher's, Fish-monger's, and Fire-merchant's doors, are there prices wrote up for these commodities at each season of the year; which, according to scarcity, or plenty, are rais'd or lower'd by order of the council: there is a magazine of corn in the center of the town, which is bought up when cheap, and in case of a scarcity, is open'd and re-tailed to the poor, and poor housekeepers, at the price for which it was bought: this praise-worthy regulation, puts it out of the power of those rapacious monopolizers of grain, cattle, and coal, to starve or distress the most useful and laborious part of the nation; who like the useless, inactive drones, devour

devour the honey, their industrious countrymen have so hardly toil'd for : surely ! such laws as these are worthy our imitation ; and I wish I could see them established throughout *England*.

This town, tho' extremely large, contains only 9000 souls, with an innumerable number of churches, and convents ; few manufactories, and little commerce, except in wines, oil, and corn, which are its chief riches. The jews who live in a particular quarter of the town, enjoy their religion in a handsome synagogue ; a privilege refus'd them in *France* ; and tho' subject to heavy taxes, and distinguishing marks, (which custom, and their own interest have taught them not to esteem a punishment) are in a very thriving condition ; for most of the trade of the city goes through their hands. The married men are oblig'd to wear yellow hats, and the women have their caps bunch'd out on each side, as big as a penny loaf ; the batchelors and maidens, red hats ; which when they cross into the dominions of *France*, they immediately change.

Your next trip is to *Aix*, a parliament town, the capital of *Province*, and only twelve leagues distant ; you'll find every day at the door of the inn, coachmen and chaise boys plying passengers, any one of whom will set you down for six livres. It is proper I should acquaint you, that between several towns

towns you have now to visit, there are no fix'd stages, therefore no stipulated price; and it is the custom of these *Voituriers* as they are call'd, to ask a louis d'or, when they mean to take one third; therefore never offer them more, and you'll find they will in the end take your money, there are such numbers of them continually passing and repassing, that if one will not, another will: I should again inform you (as I would not deceive my reader in any one point) that these carriages are as decent and comfortable as our stage coaches fash'd, on each side, and calculated to hold four or six passengers, and very different from the *Noah's* ark before mentioned; the only objection to them (if it can be deem'd one) is, that as they are drawn by mules, they do not exceed thirty miles a day; but this I esteem an advantage, in that pleasant climate, to a man who makes a proper use of his travels, as he has an opportunity, not only to make just observations on the country he goes through, as to the nature of its produce, goodness of its soil, &c. but also at every town he stays at to dine and lye, he has time enough to inspect the various curiosities, and acquaint himself with the manufactories, trade, riches, customs, and manners of the people; which, by being hurried through, (as our nobility and gentry commonly are) in post-chaises, he would be deprived of.

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The best inn at *Aix*, is the *Croix d'or*; where for the same price as at *Avignon*, you will be well lodg'd and entertain'd; this town will perhaps please you better than any you have yet seen in *France*, tho' deficient in amusements, except when the parliament is sitting: in winter it is extremely pleasant, never too cold, but in the summer, hot, and extremely unhealthy: it is seated in a valley, entirely surrounded with lofty hills; which keep off the refreshing breezes, that might otherwise make it pleasant and temperate: the wall round the town (being irregular and decay'd) greatly offends the eye while without; but when within, nothing can be more pleasant: the streets are well pav'd, ever clean, and of a great breadth and length: the houses are beautifully built of white stone, and most of them ornamented with balconies, and sculpture; and in general, exceed those at *Paris*. The publick walk is near a mile long, and extremely pleasant, compos'd of four rows of stately elms, which form three delightful allies: in the center of the middle walk, are four magnificent fountains; one of which, discharges water in great abundance, almost scalding hot, which has many virtues, one of which is said to be that of curing the most confirm'd p—x; and if it has this power providence would have been kind to have plac'd one of equal efficacy, in every southern town in *France*.

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On each side of this noble avenue, are grand uniform buildings, in which the nobility and gentry reside, especially in winter; so that it is said to be the genteelest frequented provincial town in the kingdom: the town-hall, the parliament house, and several magnificent churches and convents, are worthy your inspection.

There are also several publick libraries, a mint, a chamber of accounts, a court of taxes, and many other publick buildings, where the affairs of the province are settled. To have an extensive prospect of the town, and the country round it, you should visit the *Couvent des Freres Precheurs*, from thence you will discover the hills cover'd with vines, and olive trees; the plains and vallies, diversified with meadows, corn fields, and serpentine rivers; and bordered with trees, which make an agreeable verdure, almost the whole year.

Aix, tho' large, is not peopled in proportion; scarce any manufactures, and little trade, except in wine and oil, which are very excellent. You will find carriages at your inn, setting out every hour for *Toulon*, which is sixteen leagues distant; in any of which, you may get a passage for eight livres, to the *Croix de Malta*, which is the best inn in that town; you will no doubt be astonish'd at the dirt and poverty that prevails in this garden of *France* as it is term'd, only (as I apprehend

apprehend) because oranges and lemons grow there, and almost in as great perfection as in the *West-Indies*: the people by their rags and meagre yellow look, shew very conspicuously, the misery that reigns amongst them; proceeding more from the barrenness of the country (which is mostly rocks and pebbles) than their own indolence, though a person, who did not make enquiries, would think their distresses partly owing to that; for they seem a slovenly people, in having pil'd up against every house a great dunghill: on my enquiring into the reason of this unhealthy and indecent practice, I was inform'd that they had no other method of making manure for their land, than by spreading straw in the streets, which was ground to pieces by the carriages frequently passing and repassing.

For some miles before you reach *Toulon*, you will cross the same chain of mountains, which form the *Alps*, a road that had I not seen it, I should have scarce thought the world had produced such a one. This road is in many places extremely narrow, being cut out of the solid rock, which is often 100 feet perpendicular above you, and seems to threaten destruction to those who pass; for on the other hand, in a deep gulley, lie many large pieces of the rock which the heavy rains have loosened and washed down, and during this season it is scarce practicable to travel at all.

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On the tops of several of these barren rocks, are villages and castles, which are often seen above the clouds ; and to come at them, the inhabitants are obliged to make the circuit of the hill many times. Here were places to retreat to in the time of the civil wars, and are still inhabited as the air is pure ; and these sky-larks enjoy perfect health upon them. When you are within a few miles of *Toulon*, the whole face of the country wears a most joyful appearance, though those lofty hills still continue ; but then they are cloathed with ever-greens, such as oranges, lemons, olives, and fig-trees, which are so delightfully interspers'd with country-seats and vineyards, &c. on the one hand ; and a most extensive view of the *Mediterranean* on the other, that the whole forms the most beautiful prospect imaginable. You enter *Toulon* over a draw-bridge, through a most magnificent gate, ornamented with trophies and inscriptions in honour to *Lewis* the XIV. the town is strongly wall'd in, has a wet ditch, is well fortified, and seems capable of making an obstinate defence, as there is no rising ground within shot, or shell, that can command it, except the enemy was in possession of the harbour, which I was inform'd, was strongly defended : I would have examined the fortifications towards the sea, but it was refus'd me : the town is small, but well inhabited ; the houses neatly built of
white

white stone; the streets narrow, but regular; well paved, and ever clean, occasioned by the many fountains which constantly wash them, and carry all the filth and dirt into the harbour, which they told me had totally destroyed the worms which were formerly so destructive to ships bottoms. This though a garrison town, has no barracks, so that the soldiers are all billeted on the inhabitants: they have a spacious square in the center of the town, in which they daily perform their exercise. The king's yard may appear curious to those who have frequented those places less than I have; but I think it vastly inferior to any of our capital yards: what merits to be most admired, is, the harbour, and two beautiful moles, where 200 sail of ships may lay in the greatest security perfectly land-lock'd; and the great propriety and exactness the different ships of war observe when they rig, or dismantle, each has her respective store in the inner mole; her name wrote over the door opposite to which she may come at all times (there being no tide,) and either receive, or deliver her stores; totally avoiding the confusion and delay I have often seen in our dock-yards, by mixing them confusedly in a loft together; trusting wholly to a tally, which often breaks off. Their guns and anchors are ready on the wharfs; their casks put on board empty, then stow'd, and fill'd by pipes contiguous

to the water side: they told me, they could equip twenty sail of the line in three days; but that I could never believe, except they had *English* seamen to shew them the method; in which case certainly these conveniences would greatly expedite an attempt of that nature. It is impossible for an *English* man to see without the greatest pity and compassion, those poor unhappy men, called galley slaves, chained by the leg two together, and their chains of a merciless weight, many of whom have been guilty of no other crime than smuggling three or four pound of tobacco, or salt, or perhaps kill'd a partridge, pheasant, or hen, (to hinder their families from starving,) on the estate of some tyrannical despotic seigneur: cruelty of this nature, for such slight offences, is certainly flying in the face of our most merciful creator, and most profanely prostituting the power he has been pleased to invest in the great, over the rest of their unhappy fellow-creatures; and to add to their misery and affliction, they are obliged to do all the slavery in the king's yard, that the horses do in ours; and have no other food to support their hard labour, than a pint of pease, or califaners per day, with a pound of bread, and water to drink, and at night they are cram'd into a galley, which lays afloat, and contains (as they told me) fourteen hundred
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of them ; so we may suppose, they have as little rest in the night as the day.

As a friend to my country, I should be very sorry to see slavery introduced, or any other arbitrary power that could in the least degree violate, or curtail the liberty an *English* man claims as his birth-right : but upon a serious consideration, I am fully persuaded, that had we a number of gallies stationed at the different ports belonging to his majesty, to receive the multitudes of sturdy malefactors, (many of them in the prime of life,) who are annually executed in *England, Scotland, and Ireland*, it would be attended with the most happy consequences to the publick, as no doubt, the dread of slavery in a country where liberty is, and the seeing the severities people in that situation must suffer, would be more likely to prevent the innumerable thefts and robberies which are committed, than these so frequent executions ; for it is plain, that these unhappy people, take very little care about the safety of their souls ; and whoever has attended at an execution, must have perceived, that the fear of death gave them very little uneasiness.

You must agree for your passage from *Toulon* to *Marseilles*, which you might with greater pleasure perform by water, (as you go back almost the same road you came) was it not for the danger of falling into the hands

hands of the *Algerine* cruizers, who are at war with *France*. The distance by land is ten leagues, for which you will pay fix livres. *Marfeilles* is 169 leagues from *Paris*, fituated in a bottom, encompass'd on the North, East, and West-fides by a lofty hill, at the distance of about two miles: on the South is a most convenient harbour, where the ships being land-lock'd, ride in the most perfect safety, and come close up to the merchants doors; the passage is so narrow, and water so shallow, there not being above sixteen feet at the harbour's mouth, that a king's frigate cannot venture in with safety; the entrance is well defended, having a citadel on one side; and four tier of guns on the other: there are several islands, and a large bay without, where ships may ride as safe as at *Spithead*: on the land side, the town appears to me incapable of making any defence; the wall with which it is enclosed, is tumbling to ruins, and there are several eminences that command it, which are in much less than point blank shot: this town is esteem'd only secondary to *Aix*, which is called the first city of *Provence*, though this is considerably the most important in point of trade; it is large, rich, and is said to have been a town 500 years before the birth of *Christ*: it is divided into the old and new towns, the former stands on an eminence, and consists of old buildings and narrow streets,

streets; but in the latter, the houses are magnificently built with white stones, and like those of *Aix*, adorned with sculpture and balconies; the streets are broad, well pav'd, and ever clean: the publick walk is in the center of the low town, a mile in length, and extends from the gate of *Toulon* to that of *Aix*; it is well shaded with lofty trees; and on each side are beautiful houses, in which the principal merchants reside. The inhabitants are supposed to be thirty four thousand, though before the plague which happened in 1720, they counted almost double that number. Their manufactures consist in gold and silver stuffs, silks and laces of all sorts, silk stockings, woollen cloths, stuffs and serges: they also export great quantities of wine, oil, and wool, and by their advantageous situation, have engross'd the greatest part of the trade of the *Levant*. The cathedral (which they tell you was a temple of *Diana*,) is richly ornamented; which with several convents, churches, the mint, change, arsenal, town-hall, armoury, academy of polite arts, and observatory merits notice: from the latter you have a most extensive view of the *Mediterranean*, and that delightful plain on the land side of the town, which forms a half moon; and is said to contain no less than twelve hundred country seats, interspers'd with gardens, vineyards, olives, and all other sorts of fruit trees,

trees, it appears more like a town than the country, which greatly takes off the pleasure of its prospect, being confined (as I said before) by a high chain of rocks, that nearly encompass the town. The galley slaves seem to enjoy more freedom here than at *Toulon*, as many of them (though heavily chained,) are allowed to work for themselves, and have little shops on the quay: I was told this indulgence proceeded more from pecuniary views, than humanity; as it puts a considerable sum of money annually into the admiral's pocket, be that how it may, I was glad to see it. The best inns, are the *Croix de Malta*, or *la Nouvelle Rose*, where for four livres a day, you will be well accommodated.

This is a gay amusing town; is frequently the residence of travellers for some time; should you chuse to add to that number, you should take out at the play-house an *abonnement*, that is, a *ticket*, or *agreement*, on which your name and the day of the month are inserted: this will only cost you eighteen livres, and, shewn to any of the keepers of the different lodges, will (during a month) give you free admittance to whatever seat you chuse through the whole house; and if you please you may change your box between every act, which is the custom of the *French* gentlemen, except they are accompanied by ladies: this method will save you one half, therefore you should ever practise it in every town

town you propose staying any time : you should often frequent the plays, as it is not only a cheap, innocent way of passing a long winter's evening, but will give you (with proper attention) a great insight into the *French* language.

The next town you have to visit is *Arles*; to come at which, you must go through *Aix*, five leagues from *Marseilles*: this town is 153 leagues from *Paris*, is situated on an eminence, on the East side of the *Rhone*, and abounds in *Roman* antiquities: it is an unhealthy situation, being almost surrounded with a low marshy country: its chief trade consists of wool, corn, wine, and oil, which are conducted from thence into the *Mediterranean*, by tartans, polacres, and gallies, that come close up to the town: this being a tedious navigation, (occasioned by the rapidity of the *Rhone*, which always runs to the Southward,) prevents its being frequented by any ships of burthen. The cathedral, and town-hall, are superb structures; the former, richly decorated within; and the latter, elegant, regular, and finely situated; it is of a square form, adorned with three orders of architecture, one above the other; the portico is magnificent, and embellished with the busts of the Counts of *Province*; and the roof supported with twenty double columns. Among the numerous antiquities, are the ruins of a *Roman* amphitheatre,

theatre, supposed to have been built by *Julius Cæsar*.

There are also the remains of a *Circus*, consisting of a door with two columns of marble of the *Corinthian* order ; a *Roman* capital ; and a large collection of *Roman* tombs, monuments, urns, &c. near the city are what they call the *Elysian* fields, where the *Romans* used to bury the ashes of their dead, and they are now made use of as a church-yard. This city has a communication with *Languedoc* over a wooden-bridge, placed on flat-bottom'd boats, opposite the town: the *Lyon d'or*, or the *Dolphin*, are the only inns ; where for three livres five sols a day, you will be well accommodated.

In coming from *Aix* to *Arles*, you will cross a most extensive plain without a house, tree, or the least verdure, or any thing to be seen but pebble stones: they told me the sea had formerly been there, and that it continued equally barren for near three thousand acres; yet what is most surprizing, is, that it turns out more profitable to the proprietors, than if it produced wine, or corn, in the greatest abundance, as it is entirely covered with sheep; which though ever so poor, become fat in three weeks time, on a little white flower, ever in bloom, which grows underneath the stones ; to come at which, they are obliged to scrape with their feet: it also gives the mutton so fine a
flavour,

flavour, that it is sent as presents, when kill'd, to a great distance, as we do venison.

Your next object is *Nismes*, which is five leagues distant, and 148 leagues from *Paris*: the situation of this town is extremely pleasant, having on one side, hills covered with vines, and olives; and on the other, a fine country; fertile in all sorts of grain. According to some historians, *Nismes* is 580 years older than *Rome*; and was formerly reckoned the largest city in *Europe*. There is no city where there is to be found so numerous a collection of *Roman* antiquities: the amphitheatre, the square house, the temple of *Diana*, the great tower, several statues, and a multiplicity of inscriptions, are testimonies of it. The amphitheatre is certainly a work of the *Romans*, and was built (according to appearance,) during the empire of *Adrian*; it is of an oval form, with two ranks of arches placed one over the other, each composed of sixty arches, which make 195 fathoms in circumference: there are four principal entrances placed, north, east, south, and west: this building is composed of stones as hard as marble, and put together without mortar, the middle (which served for the gladiators, and warlike exercises,) is one hundred feet diameter, and at present filled with small houses; on many stones of this superb monument there are inscriptions; also, a wolf sucking *Ro-*

mulus, and *Remus*; and a representation of the gladiators engaged. The square house is twelve fathoms long, six broad, and twelve high, richly ornamented with stone pillars of the *Corinthian* order. The most able architect that *France* ever produced, declared, he never saw so perfect, and high finished a piece of work; and added, that to this, he was wholly indebted, for the art in which he excell'd: as it is built upon a height, you ascend to it by a grand flight of steps, and is at present converted into a beautiful church, belonging to the *Augustines*. The temple of *Diana* is antient, and of great magnificence; it is ornamented with ten marble pillars of the *Corinthian* order; a beautiful cornish all round, and several superb statues in marble, many of them quite perfect; yet what is most astonishing, is the ceiling, which is formed of stones six feet long, three broad, and eighteen inches thick, without the least visible means to support them. The grand entrance is to the East: to the North, and South, there are covered allies, through which they conducted the victims destined to be sacrificed, without incommoding the priest or congregation. They are entirely ignorant, by whom, or at what time it was built. The great tower, is situated on an eminence near the temple, it is at present much decay'd, and in ruins: they scarce know to what use
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it was applied, except to lodge prisoners of state, or the publick treasure: near to it is a large piece of *Roman* pavement, which is very perfect and beautiful, being form'd of different coloured stones; it resembles much a *Turky* carpet.

The fountain of *Nismes* takes its source near the temple of *Diana*; where, (from the centre of a small pool, not six yards in circumference) there boils up water as clear as crystal in such abundance, as to supply the town, a vast number of mills, and form extensive canals, basons, and cascades, beautiful beyond expression; all built of hewn stone: walks form'd, trees planted, in the most uniform manner imaginable; so that in short, neither expence, or pains have been spared to render the whole the most complete high finished work throughout the kingdom.

The inhabitants are computed to be 40,000, the houses tolerably built of hewn stone, but the streets narrow, and irregular; there are several beautiful walks, both within and without its walls. Their manufactures chiefly consist in silks, silk stockings and woollen goods. The citadel is wall'd in; has a strong tower at each corner, and two battalions of horse and foot, are commonly lodg'd there: the curious traveller should, by all means, visit a magnificent house, called the *Caverac*, and the *Pont du Gard*,
which

which is three leagues off: the former has ruin'd several of its owners, having cost them (as they say) to ornament it, from time to time, sixteen millions of livres. The *Pont du Gard* appears to have been constructed soon after the amphitheatre of *Nismes*, to conduct the water from the fountain of *Aure* to that city: this aqueduct is nine leagues long; and where it crosses the river *Gardon*, and in a valley between two lofty mountains, is extremely curious, being built like three bridges one on the other; the first is composed of six arches; the second, eleven; and the third, thirty five; the height of the whole amounting to 182 feet: there is no inscription by which the world can judge, by whom, or in what time, this magnificent monument of antiquity was built; there are these three letters, A. E. A. of which nothing can with any certainty be made. The best inn at *Nismes*, is the *Horn*, where for three livres five sols a day, you will be well entertained.

Your next trip is to *Montpellier*, which is eight leagues distant, your carriage thither will cost you four livres, you will stop to dine at *Lunel*, where you may visit the *Port*, as they call it; there you may form to yourself some idea (from the multiplicity of barges coming and going,) of the riches that accrue to this province, by the assistance of a small canal, which has a communication
with

with the *Mediterranean* sea, owing to the small expence at which they transport their corn, wine, oil, and manufactures wherever they please; and without which conveniency, it would be impracticable: you will arrive early in the evening at *Montpellier*, where the best inns are the *Petit Paris*, and the *Cheval Blanc*.

This town has been long famous for (what I, and many of my countrymen sadly experienced, it does not in the least degree possess) a salubrious air, and the skill of its physicians: I pass'd six months there, at a very considerable expence, on promises of having my health perfectly established; when (to my great concern,) after having gone through all their various operations, I found, in the end, my health much impair'd. I can acquaint my countrymen, (and indeed I think it my duty to do so,) that the climate of that town is so much alter'd for the worse, that the inhabitants themselves scarce know it to be the same: it has been changing these ten years, and every year becomes worse and worse. I declare upon my honour, I have known it rain almost three months without intermission; and at intervals such thick stinking foggs, as nothing but the banks of *Newfoundland* could equal; and several times (for three or four days on a stretch) the sky so heavily loaded, that I have neither been able to see sun, moon, or star;

star; and the streets quite wet with the humidity of the air. In summer it is so insufferable hot, that till the cool of the evening there is no stirring out. Its situation, (though on an eminence) in my opinion could never have been healthy; as between it and the *Mediterranean* (which is about three leagues distant,) it is one continued marsh and swamp; ever covered with noxious vapours, which when the sea breeze sets in, blows directly on the town, and the country adjacent; the sad effects of which, its unhealthy inhabitants, with their yellow meagre looks, are the most convincing proofs. The physicians may be good, but I own none of us, while I was there, found them so, though we tried their skill; and what is still more strange is, that they will allow the *English* no merit at all, and seem, merely from a spirit of contradiction, to act in direct opposition to them: In *England*, I was ordered (my disorder being nervous) the cold baths at all seasons, with other restringents; instead of which, those judicious *French-bred physicians*, put me into the hot bath, an hour at each time; repeating them successively, till they amounted to sixty; still persisting, though I often fainted in them; and when out, so much relaxed and enfeebled by them, that I had not strength to cross the room; and at the same time kept me on a half starv'd diet; forbidding

forbidding me wine, or in short, any thing that was comfortable to life. They pretend to be very famous at curing *La Verole*, without salivation; but I can assure the world, that three *English* gentlemen, after going through their different teasing operations; went away quite dissatisfied, having the same pains, and other excruciating symptoms, that ever attend that diabolical disorder. Let a man's complaint be what it will, he must either bleed, or take a glyster: this indelicate practice is so much in vogue in this very delicate, and polite country, that both men and women (though in perfect health) take two or three a day; and will talk of them with as much freedom, as we do of our dishes of tea. It is common to hear a gentleman or lady say in company, that their dinner has not pass'd; they will e'en go and take a *Lavement*, and in a few minutes return and say, it has perform'd admirably: the women say, it refreshes them, and helps their skin to a fine colour; but I must impartially say, I never saw any of their women of quality, or fashion, that had any other than that which a profusion of paint and powder gave them, and own my ideas were often so indelicate, as to fancy I saw them charg'd in rear, with this darling machine of theirs, of which I have been just now speaking. This is a long digression, which I shall make no apology for, as my principal design is to prevent any

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of

of my countrymen travelling so far in search of health, to be disagreeably disappointed; and fully persuaded am I, that the air of *Montpellier*, is destructive to all inward or nervous complaints; which is what, in this gloomy climate we mostly complain of; though I well know the physicians on their arrival there, will tell them (for their own interest,) that they will send them home new born, which is their frequent expression.

The town has nothing curious to induce a stranger to stay longer in it than three or four days, except he arrives there about *Christmas*; at which time, it is very gay, as all the nobility of *Languedoc* meet there at that time, to settle the affairs of the Province, though it is not the capital, but esteem'd nearly the center. There is during that time, a play, which with an indifferent concert, are all the publick amusements. The people in trade, are reputed by the *French* themselves, to be the greatest extortioners, and sure not to let a penny escape them, be the means to come at it ever so unjust; as an instance, they had the conscience to charge an *English* sea officer that died there, 300 livres (twelve guineas and a half,) for only eight days lodging, this to my knowledge is a fact.

The houses are, as the streets and people, extremely irregular and dirty: the inhabitants

tants are supposed to amount to 40,000, who trade very largely in wine, cordials, oil, verdigrease, and salt-petre. They have several manufactures in silk and woollen goods. The environs are extremely pleasant; having on one side *La place de Peyrean*, which forms a fine terras, in the center of which is a superb statue of *Louis* the XIV. on horseback: from thence, on a clear day, may be seen to the Eastward, the *Alps*, which form the frontiers of *Italy*; to the South West, the *Pyrenean mountains*, which form those of *Spain*, each esteem'd fifty leagues distant; and to the Southward a most extensive view of the *Mediterranean*: not far from thence is a noble aqueduct, built like two bridges one above the other; and the King's garden, where (on certain days) public lectures are held on botany. On the other side of the town is the *Esplanade*, a beautiful walk, bordered on each side by olive trees, from whence there is a pleasing prospect of the sea, and the country adjacent to the town; near which, is the citadel, a place of no strength, though well wall'd in, as it is commanded by several rising grounds, and has only a dry ditch. There is commonly kept there four battalions of infantry. Should an *English* man chuse to reside here any time, the *Grand Ruë*, that is the *great Street*, is the genteelst quarter to reside in; where twelve or eighteen livres a month, is

the price for a genteel chamber; which in the time of the states, would lett for sixty; and if they do not chuse to mess with the officers, there is a genteel ordinary, where the *English* commonly eat at, in the *Rue d'argenterie*, which is contiguous to your lodgings.

Before you leave this unhospitable city, you should hire a horse and visit *Cett*, a snug sea port town, four leagues to the Southward, where the royal canal of *Languedoc* forms its junction with the *Mediterranean*. At your return you will find as before, coaches setting out every day from the *Cheval Blanc* for *Beziers*, sixteen leagues distant; eight livres will be enough to give for your passage: you will arrive time enough in the evening to examine properly *Pezenas*, a small neat town, situate in a plain on the river *Peyne*: this town the *English* have chose, of late years, to reside at, far preferable to *Montpellier*; as the air is considerably better, all sorts of provision in greater abundance, and the people hospitable; and indeed differ as much in their manners as if they were not born in the same country. You will on the next evening arrive early at *Beziers*, situated on a lofty eminence; at the foot of which runs the river *Orbe*, over which is a handsome bridge. The cathedral is small, but finely decorated within; and opposite to it is the *Belvédère*, or *Terras*, which commands
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a most enchanting and extensive prospect of the fine country adjacent to the town, and the valley through which this beautiful river runs; rising gradually on each side, and forming an amphitheatre covered with olives, vineyards and corn fields; and on the other side, the ten sluices of the canal, which forms so many beautiful cascades, of near 120 yards in depth.

The bishop's palace is magnificent, and commands a fine view, opposite to it is the town hall, which forms one side of a large square; on the wall of which are several antique inscriptions. There is at the bottom of the *Ruë Françoise*, an enormous statue of *Pierre Peerne*, which (to amuse the people) they paint, and crown with laurels every year. History says, that when *Beziers* was taken by the *English*, that the valiant captain hindered them ever taking possession of the grandest and most opulent street in the town. The environs of this city are esteem'd the most delightful in *France*. The inhabitants are supposed about 10,000, whose riches principally consist in corn, wine and oil. There are a few manufactures in woollen and silk. The houses are tolerably built, but the streets narrow, irregular, and badly paved.

I now propose to embark you on the royal canal for *Toulouse*, where it empties itself into the *Garonne*, and is twenty four leagues distant.

distant. This expedition will both delight, and astonish you, as it is the most admirable and useful invention of the kind in *Europe*, and pours with its stream, riches, plenty, and the produce of all foreign countries, into every province, town and village it comes near, by opening a free communication between the *Western Ocean*, and the *Mediterranean* sea. History says that the *Romans* had first conceiv'd the designs of this canal; but that the inequality of the earth, the mountains, the forests, and the rivers that opposed its passages, had appeared such insurmountable obstacles, as to oblige them to lay aside their intention: but *Paul Riquet*, a *French* man, who (according to the same history) was more resolute and enterprizing than any of the *Romans*, undertook to complete this grand design in 1666; and before his death, had the satisfaction to see it brought to the greatest perfection.

This indefatigable projector removed all these inconveniences, either by sluices, which contain the water in the descents; in piercing mountains, building bridges, or rather aqueducts, under which those torrents and rivers, pass; there are fifteen of these sluices, on the side of the ocean; and forty five, on that of the *Mediterranean*; and thirty seven aqueducts, through which these heavy barges pass; in general carrying between fifty and sixty tons: in different places, there
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are eight bridges, forming one beautiful arch, for carriages to pass on either side.

The *Post-boat* (for so it is called) which sets out at twelve o'clock every day, is small; fitted up as complete as a ship's cabin, and drawn by one horse: it will cost you only thirty sols a day; stops to dine, sup, and lie; and on the third day, early in the evening, will set you safe at *Toulouse*: you will pass through several of the aqueducts, as before mentioned; some of them standing on three or four arches; under which, run rapid torrents, and rivers that have not the least communication with the canal: in other places you will mount, and descend lofty eminences, by the help of several sluices shutting the door of one successively, till you have water to float in the next; and so on, till you reach the top or bottom. This is somewhat tedious; but the pleasure of seeing so admirable an invention, will make the time appear short; in a third place, and what I think most curious of all, is, your passing for the space of 480 feet, under a lofty mountain, which is as completely arch'd with hewn stone as *Westminster* bridge; on the top of which are vineyards, corn fields, olive trees, and several houses.

The curious traveller should by all means stop at *Castelnaudari*; at which place he will arrive the second day to dinner, and take post horses to *St. Ferreol*, (which is only
five

five leagues distant,) and view the Reservoir which supplies the canal with water: it is computed to be a league round; built entirely of hewn stone, and of a vast depth; underneath which there are several brass cocks of an enormous size; which when the canal wants water, are open'd by iron bars to supply it: there are three rivers constantly emptying themselves into this reservoir.

This canal during the months of *July*, *August*, and *September*, is apt to become dry, in order to its being clean'd out, as it is a standing water; consequently a great deal of mud is collected, and the people employ'd in the craft, are prefix'd to work on this occasion if they chuse it, which is the most essential means of having that business effectually done; as it is much their interest it should be so. This stop is not the least hinderance to trade; as at that season the people are employed on their harvest, and making their wines.

The barges are all mark'd with the master's name; numbered, and the prices of freight stipulated according to the distance they carry it: and through their whole conduct, the greatest care and regularity is observ'd. I was credibly inform'd, that when the canal is clean'd out, though it is term'd sixty leagues in length, that they can float all the craft in three days; from whence we can form some idea of the excellence of the work;

work; the plentiful supply of water; and with what joyful rapidity it rushes forth to the publick good.

This canal is said to cost thirteen million of livres; half of which was supplied by the province, and the rest liberally given, by that great encourager of arts and sciences, *Louis* the XIV. and still as a greater mark of his unbounded generosity, granted to *Riquett* (the proprietor) and his male heirs; all the jurisdiction and revenues belonging to it; so that the crown does not come into possession till the extinction of that line: all goods transported on it, pay for every hundred weight twenty sols; and the king himself pays the same for military stores, &c. so that the revenues (especially in time of a brisk trade) are very considerable. However, the charges attending it are also very great; for it is calculated that the salaries of the several directors, receivers, comptrollers, clerks, and watchmen, annually amount to one hundred thousand livres, besides the great expence of repairs; and are obliged to keep those post boats constantly going, and coming, though not a passenger should be in them. In one of these you may again reassume your voyage to *Toulouse*, where I shall suppose you are now arrived. *La cloche d'albi*, or *le Hotel de Prince*, are the best inns, at either of which you will be well lodg'd, and find a most plentiful table for three livres a

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day : this town, and the country adjacent, resemble *England* more than any other city, or part of *France* I was in ; the houses being all built of brick, (as they have no stone,) and the fields covered with all sorts of grain which yields in great abundance, as the soil is so rich, that it does not want manure oftener than once in seven years : there are no olive trees to be seen in this country, but innumerable quantities of mulberry trees, which bear no fruit, but a small leaf in great abundance, with which they feed their silk worms : there are very few vineyards, except in places incapable of bearing corn, which indeed are rare to be found : they have an excellent law in *France*, which turns out to the publick good, but particularly to the industrious poor, and middling sort of house-keepers ; as it keeps bread in general one third cheaper than it is in *England* : 'a farmer cannot plant any piece of ground with vines, (except it is his garden,) without having tried it three years following in different sorts of grain ; if he then finds (after all his endeavours) that the produce will not pay his rent, he is to appear before the intendant, or a magistrate, and make his affidavit, that he has tried all ways and means to make it fertile ; and that it will not answer : in consequence of which, he has free permission to turn it into a vineyard : was not this law in force, (as they profit considerably more by
their

their wines) a great scarcity of grain would ensue, and consequently the poor (as bread is the greatest part of their diet) must be driven to great difficulties; the farmers pay their rent in half their produce of the earth, which is all that is the property of the landlord, so that if the corn, or vines, are destroyed, (which often happens in the South of *France*, by the destructive blights, and monstrous hail that fall,) the farmer is not ruin'd; and on the contrary, the landlord is enrich'd by the farmer's industry, in making it (for his own advantage) as productive as he can. But to return, *Toulouse* is rather large than populous; and not very commercial; though few cities in *Europe* are better situated for that purpose; as by the help of the canal, and the *Garronne*, they may transport their goods in three days, either into the *Mediterranean*, or *Western Ocean*. This amazing indolence, can be attributed to no other cause than the boundless ambition of the merchants; who all aspire to have a seat in the council; which once obtained, they and their children are then ennobled, and consequently lay aside trade and industry.

The minds of these people seem rather bent on study and amusement; and indeed I know no town in *France* where an *English* man may learn the polite arts and sciences at so easy a rate; or live cheaper, or more to

his satisfaction on a small income; for provisions, wine, and every necessary of life, are here in the greatest abundance; though the *French* language (except by the better sort of people) is insufferably spoken, which is the greatest, and only objection I have to its being the residence of my countrymen.

There is commonly a play, and concert; which with card playing in abundance are the only amusements. The convents, and churches, are innumerable; adorned with a profusion of pictures, images, and gildings. The cathedral is a handsome structure, but contains nothing remarkable. The *Carmelite's*; the *Chartereux*; and the *Cordelier's* churches, and convents, merit great notice, being magnificently ornamented, and in great taste: in a cave belonging to the latter, there are above a hundred bodies rang'd about in great order, standing upright against the wall; many of them had been buried two or three hundred years, in the isle of the church, and had (at different times) been taken up, to make room for others: they are in general as well preserved as any *Egyptian* mummy I ever saw: their teeth, in; and so perfect in their features, that I verily believe were their acquaintances living, they might easily recollect them.

The monks value themselves vastly upon the virtues of their mother earth, on which this church is built; and they daily return
thanks

thanks to the blessed virgin for this her signal favour : they are a very rich body : composed of about 120 ; and live (like several other orders of monks in *France*) entirely by begging ; which they in general do with a most undaunted, and indecent assurance ; bolting into one's chamber without knocking at the door ; and treating a denial, with the greatest insolence.

The university of this city is reputed the second in *France*, and consists of several colleges for divinity, law, physick, philosophy, and the liberal arts. There is also an academy of polite literature, founded by royal patent, which is composed of a Chancellor, and forty fellows, or members, who confer prizes on those who excel most in poetry. The town-hall is a grand building, and forms one side of a beautiful square, richly ornamented in front with marble pillars of the *Corinthian* order : the marble is the produce of *Languedoc*, where there are innumerable quarries : this handsome building has balconies at every window, richly gilt and ornamented with the mayor's and aldermen's arms. It is called the capitol ; from whence, the aldermen are called capitouls : eight of these are annually elected ; they have the administration of criminal justice ; but can resolve on nothing without calling a council of citizens, which is always composed of those who have been *Capitouls*,
and

and is nearly equal to our grand jury. In the merchant's hall (which is up stairs), are many fine paintings; among which is a representation of *Louis* the XIV. entering into that city, and his confirming the privileges of the capitouls; underneath which is this flattering inscription

Deo. opt. max.

D. D. D.

Octoviri Capitolini.

P. Q. Tolos.

Ob restitutam Ludovico Magno valetudinem.

Et conservatum

Ecclesiæ defensorem,

Nobilitati Principem,

Magistratibus Legislatorem,

Populo Patrem,

Orbi perpetuum miraculum.

On one side of this hall, is the grand register in vellum, on which they write, annually, every remarkable incident that passes in the state, or town of *Toulouse*; you there see the entrance of all the kings and queens; one of which is pretty remarkable, as it shews the great duty and respect *Louis* the IXth had for his mother, to whom the citizens of *Toulouse* had refused a canopy; he obliged her at the city gates, to get out of her state coach, and mount on a pillion behind him; consequently, the canopy that
was

was held over his head, covered the queen equally, and in this manner did he parade the town, and brought to submission those haughty citizens who ever after with great compofure paid her the respect due to majesty.

Over the *Garronne* there is a handsome bridge; at the end of which is a triumphal arch, with a statue of *Louis* the XIVth upon it. There is an *Irish* academy in this town, where there is always a vast number of catholick students from that country, who are educated at an easy rate. The ramparts (being broad and shaded on each side by Elms) would afford delightful walks, were they not so profusely and abominably ornamented in the fir-reverence order: in short, this beastly custom of doing the offices of nature, even in the open day, prevails so abundantly among these people, that it's with pain a person of the least delicacy or decency can walk through their streets; which filthy custom in a great measure proceeds from the neglect of the magistrates, though there is a defence in writing, stuck up at the corner of every street; but were they to set men to watch; and make a severe example of some few that were taken in the fact, it, no doubt, (like other nuisances) might be easily conquer'd: most of the *French* houses are without a necessary, and where there are any, they are commonly on the tops of the
houses;

houses ; so I suppose they count it less trouble to drop their daizy at the door ; than like christians, mount to the place destined for that purpose, which is often six or seven stories high.

At my first going into *France*, I was surprized at having two chamber pots laid under my bed ; and on enquiring the reason, I was informed there was one for each use : but upon my assuring them that the *English* had an aversion to odours, they thought proper to withdraw one of them. I think I have dwelt rather too long upon this dirty subject ; therefore I'll wave it, and proceed to something more entertaining.

Without the walls of this town there is a multiplicity of delightful walks ; such as the king's garden, the esplanade, and by the side of the river ; all which will be more pleasant twenty years hence, as the trees are but newly planted, and afford but little shade, which is much wanted in a southern climate. There are on the neighbouring mountains, several medicinal springs, which are as much frequented, as *Bath* and *Bristol* wells ; and equally efficacious for several disorders : the weak, and infirm have a most comfortable and easy method of being convey'd thither ; which, as it is much more convenient than a litter, I shall endeavour to describe.

This machine or *vis a' vis*, as is called, resembles much a round paper snuff box laid
upon

upon its edge, a door on each side; within, two seats, one opposite the other, supposed for the infirm and a servant; it is very artfully hung between two poles, as are the sedan chairs; and the motion equally easy; a mule, or horse, harness'd before, and another behind, conducts the patient with the utmost ease and pleasure, wherever they please, without either being exposed to the impertinence of a curious mob, or the inclemency of the weather: if the inn-keepers on the *Bath* and *Bristol* roads who lett post chaises were each obliged to have a couple of these useful vehicles (the expence not being great) it would be the means of saving the lives of many worthy subjects, whose fortune will not admit of their having such of their own.

You should, before you leave this country, hire a horse and visit *Montauban*, a neat pretty town on an eminence, in a fine fertile country, and distant from *Toulouse* eight leagues; which having seen, and return'd, you must embark on the *Garronne* for *Bordeaux*, which is distant forty leagues; whither you will be conducted in great safety for six livres in two days and a half: this great river always runs to the North West, and is full as rapid as the *Rhone*: the second day you will stop to dine at *Agen*, a neat pretty town, in a most agreeable situation, bordering on the North West Side of the *Garronne*: the inhabitants

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are calculated to be about ten thousand, and extremely industrious ; they have several manufactures in silk and woollen goods, and provisions of all kinds in the greatest abundance. When you arrive at *Bourdeaux*, the *Hotel de Prince*, *Hotel d' Orleans*, or the *Hotel de Condé*, are the best inns ; where you are always sure of meeting some of your countrymen ; four livres ten sols is the price per day. This town is large, populous, and extremely commercial. The harbour (or rather that side of the river on which the town is built) forms a half moon ; and receives ships of the greatest burthen, as the tide flows full, and rises twenty one feet high : the merchants houses (which range along the quay near two miles and a half in length) are all built of hewn stone, exactly uniform ; and most of them ornamented with sculpture and balconies : in the center there is a large square ; one side of which is form'd by a magnificent change, with an equestrian statue of the present king, placed on a lofty, and beautiful pedestal of white marble ; on one side of which, is a conspicuous mark of their weakness and vanity, representing *General Blakeney*, in a most submissive manner on one knee, rendering the keys of *Mahon*, and several trophies of war to *Mareschal Richelieu* ; the other side is a blank. I told a *French* sea officer (who was polite enough to shew me that as well as every other

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curiosity) that it was very unfortunate that *France* had not been successful enough to have taken another town; as it then might have appeared a finished piece, in having each side equal; but that I would have them substitute the *Greenwich* and * *Warwick* as emblems also of their victories by sea; he told me with a shrug of the shoulders, that this was left to be done the next war.

The city contains a few *Roman* antiquities; but so much defaced, as to be made nothing of, except the remains of an amphitheatre, built by the emperor *Gallinus*. The change, parliament house, cathedral, and *Cartheusian* convent, merit attention; this last, being the richest, and most magnificently ornamented of that order, in *France*. The harbour is defended, and commanded by the *Castle Trompet* on one end of the quay, and the *Castle Haa* on the other; in both of which there are garrisons kept.

These fortifications appear to me to be constructed on such a plan, (having only one tier of guns, and nearly parallel with a first rate's upper deckers,) as ships of the line would pay no regard to; for they could come within pistol shot of either of them, and in half an hour silence all that dare oppose them: but the strength of *Bordeaux*, I take it, chiefly consists in the difficulty of its navigation, being twenty leagues from

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* The only capital ships taken during the late war.

the sea : the shoals in this river are innumerable, and of so dangerous a nature, that few merchant ships that get on them (except on a flood tide) ever get off ; the bottom being a soft mud, and sandy, they make a bed for themselves ; and in a tide's time are swallowed up : but could proper pilates be procured, I apprehend it would be no difficult matter to raise a million sterling of these wealthy inhabitants, before they could have any assistance.

Six leagues below the town there is an island opposite to *Blaye*, between which the ships must pass : this channel is defended by some guns on each side, which appear to me, (as they are well elevated) of much more consequence than those at the town.

The trade of this city, as before observ'd, is extremely considerable ; and to encourage commerce, a toleration is granted to most nations that frequent it ; but particularly the *Scotch* ; who, on account of the services they formerly rendered to *France*, enjoy considerable privileges ; and one of the gates of *Bordeaux*, even at this day, bears the arms of *Douglas* : and as ships from that country have peculiar immunities allowed them in trade, they ship most of their wines from hence.

The *Protestants*, in some measure, enjoy their religion here with more freedom, than in the Southern towns of *France* : their minister

minister always appears in a layman's habit; and performs divine service in the houses of some of the principal merchants. The environs of this city are extremely agreeable, but the town, quite the contrary; as the houses (except those on the quay) are old, and irregular; the streets the same; ever dirty, and badly pav'd. The garden of the bishop's palace is always open from two 'till nine; which with the royal garden, are the most agreeable walks about the city. St. *Michael's* church is remarkable for its lofty, and well finished steeple; from whence you have a beautiful prospect of the harbour, and shipping, with a most fertile country adjacent to the town, covered with vineyards, corn, country seats, and meadows; through which run many pleasing rivulets.

Your next town to visit, is *Poitiers*, the capital of *Poitou*, situated on a hill; at the foot of which, runs the river *Clain*, it is fifty two leagues from *Bordeaux*, and seventy five from *Paris*, you will, as before, find plenty of carriages; in any of which, you may be conducted for a *Louis d'or*. If a man was to judge of a town from the extent of it, this ought to be the second city in *France*, but it is almost a desert; and never has recovered itself since the civil wars. The *Romans* erected several monuments; the remains of which (though in a very ruinous condition) do them great honour.

Near

Near this town, in 1356, the *English* gained a very signal victory over the *French*; in which battle, king *John*, and his son *Phillip*, were made prisoners: our army was then commanded in person by *Edward the black Prince*. The cathedral which is dedicated to *St. Peter*, is richly ornamented, and contains innumerable antiquities. Here *Catholick* superstition seems to have a full scope: in the church of *St. Hiliare*, they shew on one side of the organ, a large cradle six feet long, and two and a half broad; in which they say, if a fool, or a madman is tied down, after the priests have offered up a few prayers to the blessed virgin, out he comes perfectly restored to his proper senses: if there was any truth in the virtue of this cradle; and all who were foolish, or craz'd, would apply; the one would never be empty; nor the other have time for rest, or refreshment.

The abby of *St. Croix*, is a monument of the piety of *St. Radegonde*, queen of *France*; it forms a cross, and was built (as they say) in the time of *Charle Magne*: it is sumptuously ornamented with fine paintings, which were presented by *Phillip William* of *Nassau*, prince of *Orange*, to *Charlotte Flandrine* of *Nassau*, his sister; who was at that time the abbess of this monastery. In this convent is a place they call the foot step of of *God*; where it is confidently reported that our Saviour, as a handsome young man, crowned

crowned with glory, appeared to one of the nuns; who was much troubled at this apparition, till he acquainted her who he was; and that he came to comfort, and assure her, that she was the choicest jewel in his crown: then he departed, and left the mark of one of his feet in the cell; and therefore they call it, *Le pas de Dieu*, but I fancy (if the truth of the matter was known) it was her lover, who might have been unfortunately surpris'd by the good mother abbess; and that the above relation is only the production of her happy genius.

In 1206 the *English* being before *Poitiers*, they found means to bribe the mayor's clerk to procure the keys, and open to them the gates of the town: to accomplish which, he awak'd his master in the night, and ask'd him for the keys to let an officer pass to king *Phillip*; the mayor search'd for them to no purpose under his pillow; and alarm'd that he could not find them, hastily got up, and put the citizens under arms, and went to the cathedral, to thank God that he had time to prevent the treason; and earnestly praying to the blessed virgin, that she would assist him: She, good image like, extended one of her arms, and presented the keys to him; in consequence of this miracle, the chapter enjoy many privileges, greatly to their own emolument.

About

About 1000 yards from the gate *du Pont Joubert*, is a stone in the form of an oval, which is call'd *La pierre Levée*: that is the *Risen stone*; it is twenty feet in circumference, eighteen inches thick; and is plac'd on five stone pillars three feet high: they tell strangers, (with great earnestness) that St. *Radegonde* carried this stone on her head into this place, and the five pillars in her apron; and that the devil pick'd up the sixth, and ran away with it; but whenever I become so credulous, as to believe a single syllable of this flagrant, and legendary story; I will consent to his infernal majesty's conferring on me the same favour he vouchsafed the pillar. Antiquarians, give a more reasonable account, and say, that it is a sepulchre of the antient poets.

In the center of the royal square is an equestrean statue of *Louis* the XIVth the pedestal (which is of white marble) is engrav'd all round with various inscriptions to the glory of that monarch. This city is govern'd by a mayor, (which office ennobles him) and twenty aldermen. They have little commerce; as the inhabitants are naturally indolent, love society, and are extremely polite and hospitable to strangers, though they stay very little time among them, as there are seldom any publick amusements; the houses are antient; the streets

streets narrow and ill pav'd : the best inn is the *Grand Monarque* ; and three livres a day the price.

Your next trip is to *Tours*, the capital of the province of *Touraine*, and a parliament town ; situated in a fertile and extensive plain, between the rivers *Loire* and the *Cher*, which join about two miles below the town ; and passing by *Nantes*, empty themselves into the *Western Ocean*. The houses are well built with a very white stone, and make a grand appearance ; the streets are broad, well pav'd, and always clean ; occasion'd by the water, from six beautiful fountains, which keep continually running through them from different quarters.

This city has also suffered considerably by the civil wars ; the inhabitants at that time were supposed to amount to 60,000 ; whereas at present they do not count half that number. The manufactures are mostly in the silk and woollen goods ; though they trade very considerably in wine, wool, and corn. The mall is esteem'd the finest walk in the kingdom, being a thousand yards long, ornamented on each side with two rows of lofty elms, and commanding a most delightful prospect : the inhabitants are so jealous of this ornament, that it is prohibited (under pain of paying ten livres) to walk there after rain, till it is perfectly dry.

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The cathedral has a most beautiful gate, ornamented in the front with two lofty towers: its library contains many manuscripts, of twelve hundred and a thousand years old, St. *Martin's* church is one of the finest in the kingdom, and may be seen twelve leagues round. The convent of the *Capucins* is situated on an eminence; and their terrass commands a fine prospect of the town, and country that environs it. The royal quay is the most spacious place in the city, and much frequented by the citizens to walk on. *Le Plessis les Tours* is a royal house, built by *Louis* the IXth, who found it so agreeable a situation, that he liv'd and died there: this castle is built of brick, and has magnificent apartments for the time in which it was constructed; a spacious park, and beautiful gardens, laid out in a high taste. The parliament house, the academy of polite literature, some convents, and the churches above-mentioned, merit notice: this city is governed by a mayor and twelve aldermen.

Your next trip is to *Blois*, twelve leagues distant; which if you please you may perform by water, and arrive there early in the evening. This town is most pleasantly situated, partly on an eminence, and partly on a plain, bordering on each side the *Loire*; over which there is a handsome bridge. This city was formerly the residence of the royal family, at which time, and for many years after,

after, it was reputed that the *French* language was spoke here in its greatest purity: but at present, people in general agree, that it does not merit that character. This town is rather large than beautiful; as the houses and streets are extremely irregular; its chief ornament is the *royal palace*, which has gardens, fountains, water-works, and a park suitable to the magnificence of the building: over every gate in this city, is an image of the blessed virgin; they were erected in 1631, at which time they had suffered considerably by a plague; from which, they supposed, they were happily delivered by this queen of heaven, as she is stiled by them. There are several magnificent fountains in different quarters of the town, which are supply'd by an aqueduct suppos'd to be built in the time of the *Romans*. The cathedral, *Jesuits* college, town hall; as also several churches and convents, merit notice. The inhabitants are supposed to be about 15,000, and trade chiefly in wine and brandy. The curious ought by all means to visit *Chambor*, a royal palace, situated in a bottom near the river *Casson*; and in the middle of a park seven leagues round, inclosed with a wall; where are kept a vast quantity of deer: it was erected by *Francis I.* who, it is said, employed during two years, 1800 men at work. Connoisseurs assure us, that among all the *Gothic* buildings, *France* contains,

they can produce nothing to equal this castle; though it is not, nor ever will be finished: four grand pavillions, form the body of this building; which has in the middle, a most spacious and beautiful stair case, constructed on so ingenious a plan, that people may come up, and go down at the same time, without seeing each other: this (though to appearance improbable) is really true.

This castle, seems as if it had been designed for making a defence; as it has a canal, and strong wall entirely round it, with a lofty tower at each corner. The chambers, antichambers, *garderobes*, cabinets, and galleries, are of an admirable architecture, and the gardens, extremely beautiful; that, belonging to the queen, contains five acres; and has also a walk two miles long, bordered on each side by two rows of fine elms, only six feet asunder, which afford a most pleasing shade. From hence your next journey will be to *Orleans*, which if you please you may perform by water.

This town is seated as *Blois*, on the banks of the *Loire*, in one of the finest countries in *France*; being extremely fertile in corn, wine, cattle, and excellent fruits; and all the rivers adjacent, abounding with fish, and the fields with game. This city stands in a most agreeable plain, and forms a crescent: the houses make no figure, as they are meanly built, and irregular; the streets in
general

general narrow, and badly pav'd. The publick walk, is of a great length, and form'd where the old ramparts stood; well shaded with lofty trees.

Orleans, on account of its situation, and being so contiguous to *Paris*, is esteem'd the grand magazine of the whole trade of the kingdom; especially in corn, wine, brandy, spices, and grocery; there are several manufactories established here in the silk and woollen way; and great quantities of tann'd hides are exported from hence. Over the *Loire* there is a handsome bridge which stands on thirty arches; on which, is to be seen a beautiful monument, placed on a stone pedestal, with several ornaments in the *Gothic* taste; in the center of this monument is a crucifix; before which, the virgin *Mary* is sitting in a mournful posture, with a dead *CHRIST* on her lap; on her right hand is the statue of king *Charles* the VII. kneeling, and offering his crown and scepter to the virgin; and on her left, the maid of *Orleans* in the same attitude: a solemn procession is annually observed on the 12th of *May*, in commemoration of the deliverance of this city, which was besieged by the joint forces of the *English* and *Burgundians* in 1428, and wanted to capitulate to the duke of *Burgundy*, who was then in the *English* army, and their ally; but the *English* not being willing that the city should
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be given up to him, he was much disgusted at it; and *Joan of Arc* taking the advantage of this disagreement, sallied out at the head of the soldiers, and rais'd the siege; from which action she obtain'd the name of the *Maid of Orleans*, and has almost as much homage paid to her effigy, as there is to that of the *Virgin Mary*.

In 1344 this city was rais'd to a dukedom; and was afterwards by *Louis* the XIV. given to his brother the duke of *Orleans*, in whose house it still continues. The forrest of *Orleans* lies to the northward of the town, and is reputed to be the largest in the kingdom, as it covers fifteen thousand acres of ground, and is interspers'd with several fine plains and villages. The revenue arising annually from the timber cut in this forrest, is supposed to amount to the sum of 100,000 livres, and is the property of the duke of *Orleans*.

It may not be improper here to mention, one, among the innumerable arbitrary laws that prevail in this despotic kingdom: the king appoints persons, who are proper judges of ship timber, to range all the woods and forrests of his dominions, immaterial to whom they belong: these people, when they find any trees proper for the king's use, mark them with a *flower-de-luce*, which when done, (though it may stand some years afterward) the proprietor dares not under
pain

pain of death, lay an ax to the root of it. The timber thus mark'd, is cut down when wanted; and the king pays what he pleases, and when he pleases, for them; which is seldom more than half the market-price.

Your next trip is to *Paris*, where you may probably stay a few days before you take your departure for *Rouen*, in your way to *England*, which is twenty nine leagues distant, and is the only city of any consequence you must expect to see while in that kingdom. This trip you may perform by water if you please for six livres, though the distance is fifty leagues, on account of the crooked turnings of the river: however, if in summer (as the stream being rapid, hurries you on at a great rate) it is my opinion much more pleasant than going by land, the machine being superior to that of *Calais*. This city is the capital of *Normandy*; bordering on the *Seine*; situated low, and almost surrounded by very high and barren mountains; having only that side open next the river: it is inclosed with an antient wall, flank'd with bastions here and there, to defend it on the land side. The foundation of the old palace was laid in 1419, as soon as king *Henry* the V. king of *England* had made himself master of the town; and was finish'd under the reign of *Henry* the VI. his son: it is at present in a ruinous condition, and the town incapable of making any defence. The inhabitants are
com-

computed to amount to 60,000 souls, are extremely industrious, and carry on a great trade. The houses make but a poor figure, being badly built and irregular, and the streets insufferably narrow and dirty. They count thirty seven parish churches, forty convents, seven for men, and twenty three for women; five hospitals, and forty publick fountains. There are three small rivers which run thro' the town, one of which is so much frequented by frogs, that their confounded noise is heard every where, and often interrupts conversation: one would imagine that in time they would be destroyed, as they commonly compose a dish or two, at each meal, at the tables of both rich and poor; the latter mostly living on them.

The cathe dral, *St. Ouen*, and *St. Maclon*, are as magnificent churches as *France* can produce, and contain many fine paintings, and *Roman* antiquities; among which are the tombs of several kings, bishops, and lords. The heart of *Charles* the V. is in a sepulchre of beautiful black and white marble, and enrich'd with an infinity of precious ornaments: also those of *Henry* the III. and *Richard* I. kings of *England*, and dukes of *Normandy*, which are plac'd on each side of the grand altar piece. There is in this church a large library, which is open to the publick, except on *saints days* and *sundays*: there is a large square in front, with a handsome

handsome fountain in the middle, in the form of a tower, which keeps continually playing. The bridge is of a very singular construction, being composed of large flat bottom'd battoes, boarded over, pav'd at top, and rows of benches on each side, which are crowded with gentry and citizens of a fine evening. It rises or falls, occasionally, with the tide; but in winter it is obliged to be broke up, on account of the vast quantities of ice that come down the river: it is 270 yards long. There was formerly a handsome stone bridge of thirteen arches which was built by order of princess *Matilda*, mother to *Henry* the II. of *England*; but in 1502 it was carried away by the floods. The walk, or mall, (which is on the other side of the water) is extremely beautiful and regular, of a great length, and shaded with lofty trees.

This town, in my opinion, is not calculated for a stranger to reside in any longer than three or four days: there are few amusements; the situation extremely unhealthy; and the *French* language most corruptly spoken here. You have now to visit *Dieppe*, from whence you will have the happiness of seeing your native country: here you will find the *English* packets; any of which will land you at *Brightelmstone* in *Suffex*, for half a guinea: *Dieppe* is only twelve leagues from *Rouen*, the price of the coach,

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(which

(which will conduct you in a day,) is fix livres. The inhabitants of this little town are mostly fishermen and pilots. Ivory and horn are turn'd here in great perfection; the women and children ever employ'd in making laces: bread, wine, fish, and all manner of provisions, are in great abundance: the streets are regular; the houses uniform, and built of brick. There are two parish churches, and several convents, none of which merit the inspection of a stranger that has made the tour of *France*. You may at your arrival in *England*, go to either *London*, a country town, or village, and spend as lavishly as you please, the money your prudence and good conduct saved you in *France*; there it will center in your mother country, enrich your fellow subjects, and enable them to support with spirit and resolution, their rights and privileges; against any perfidious, jealous, or ambitious enemy, that dare encroach upon them, or insult the *British* flag, which, with so much justice, rides lord of the main.

In the course of this tour you have travell'd 529 leagues; I say leagues; because so they count in *France*, as we do in miles; 215 of which you have, as follows, confutedly perform'd by water; which on a moderate calculation, must have sav'd you at least forty guineas.

from

	<i>By Land.</i>	<i>By Water.</i>
	<i>Leagues.</i>	<i>Leagues.</i>
From Calais to Paris -	61	
Paris to Auxerre -		33
Auxerre to Dijon -	30	
Dijon to Chalon - -	14	
Chalon to Lyons - -		24
Lyons to Avignon -		40
Avignon to Aix -	16	
Aix to Toulon - -	15	
Toulon to Marseilles -	10	
Marseilles to Aix - -	5	
Aix to Arles - -	12	
Arles to Nismes - -	5	
Nismes to Montpellier -	8	
Montpellier to Beziers -	16	
Beziers to Toulouse -		24
Toulouse to Bourdeaux		40
Bourdeaux to Poictiers	52	
Poictiers to Tours -	30	
Tours to Blois - -		13
Blois to Orleans - -		12
Orleans to Paris - -	28	
Paris to Rouen - -		29
Rouen to Dieppe -	12	
	314	215

France is bounded by the *British* channel, and the *Netherlands*, North; by *Germany*, *Switzerland*, *Savoy* and *Italy*, East; by *Spain*, and the *Mediterranean*, South; by the *Atlantick*, or *Western ocean*, West; extending from the 42 to the 51 degree of N. latitude; and taking up above 11 degrees of longitude: the most easterly part of *Province*, lying 7 degrees Eastward of *London*; and the most Westerly part of *Bretagne*, 4 degrees odd minutes Westward. Were it not for the province of *Bretagne*, which stretches above 100 miles farther into the ocean than any other part of the kingdom; the form would be almost square, and the breadth and length pretty near equal; that is, about 540 miles: but making allowances for hills and vallies, it is 609 miles over, either way.

The air is temperate, pretty equally exempted from the extremities of heat and cold; which happy situation occasions a great plenty of all things desirable in life; as corn, wine, oil, flax, oranges, lemons, and all sorts of other choice fruits: but the Northern provinces are considerably colder in winter than in *England*; so that the poor undergo much greater hardships in a severe season.

In other respects, *France* has the advantage of any kingdom in *Europe* for trade; as there is scarce a province in it, that is not well water'd with navigable rivers; most of which
have

have a communcation with the sea. The *Alps* divide it from *Italy*; and the *Pyrenees* from *Spain*.

The *French*, as to their persons, are in general, of a lower stature than their neighbours; and of a much slighter make; but nimble, active, and well proportioned: their hair, and eyes, for the most part, black; and their complections brown: they are merry, sprightly, and acquainted at first sight; but excessive vain and talkative; their vanity is carried to an unreasonable length in their pictures, inscriptions on their palaces, statues, &c. there being this modest one under that of *Louis XIV. Viro immortali*: it also makes them more extravagant in their dress, than in their eating and drinking: for though a *French* man eats nothing but soup meagre every day in the week, you will rarely see him without his lac'd coat, silk stockings, powder'd hair, and lac'd ruffles, which are often tack'd upon either false sleeves, or a shirt as coarse as a hop-sack.

The *French* certainly do not eat so great a quantity of solid meat as the *English*; nor do they often dress it in the same manner; soup, fricasees, hashes, and ragouts, are prefer'd before whole joints, boil'd or roasted; they chuse to keep their meat so long before it is dress'd, that it is so very tender, and stinks so frequently, that an unfrenchified *English* man is sure to be often disappointed

at

at his meals: they have great variety of wines, which is their common drink; and no doubt contributes as much to their vivacity; as the freedom they allow their women; for you may really court a *Frenchman's* wife before his face without his being the least jealous: the women indeed are so us'd to freedom, that they are not at all surpriz'd, tho' you should find them doing the offices of nature.

The nobility, or gentry of *France*, never apply themselves to trade, or merchandize; the church, and army, being better suited to their genius. Their military skill, it must be acknowledg'd, is very great; there being no people who attack, or defend a place better than they do.

Paris, the metropolis of this kingdom, is of a circular form, and divided by the river *Seine* almost into two equal parts; it is situated in the latitude of 48 degrees, 50 m. North, being about 200 miles distant from *London*. The air is somewhat gross, but generally esteem'd healthy: it is counted to be 18 miles in circumference: however, the *Parisien's* who have been in *England*, agree, that it is not so extensive as *London*; and in my opinion, it wants at least one third of being so. The houses are generally built of hewn stone, which is contiguous to the town; and many of them six or seven stories high, with sash windows. The royal
palaces

palaces therein, are four, though the king, nor any of the royal family, ever reside in them, viz. The *Old Palace*, the *Louvre*, the *Tuilleries*, and the *Palace Royal*. The *Old Palace* serves, like *Westminster-Hall*, for a kind of exchange, where milleners, perfumers, booksellers, &c. keep their shops, as well as to accommodate the courts of justice. The *Louvre* is situated in that part of *Paris* call'd the town, but was never finish'd; nor I believe ever will, according to the original designs, which were grand beyond description. Our *London Bethlem* was built from the East front of the *Louvre*. The *Tuilleries* is another magnificent palace, and as some will have it, is part of the *Louvre*, because join'd to it by a long gallery. The front of the *Tuilleries* is 326 yards long, having on one side, three fine courts; and on the other, beautiful gardens, in which, all the quality and gentry walk, as they do in the *Mall* at *London*. The *Terras*, which runs parallel to the river *Seine*, is esteem'd one of the greatest ornaments to these gardens, being 560 yards long, and 28 broad, planted with two rows of stately trees on each side: from this walk there is a most admirable prospect of the town, the river, and the whole country adjacent.

The *Palace Royal* stands not far from the *Louvre*; was built by *Cardinal Richlieu*, and given by him to *Louis XIV.* but is now inhabited

habited by the duke of *Orleans*: it is plain without, but fine apartments within; that, for which it is admired, is a gallery which contains most of the illustrious personages that *France* has produc'd, drawn by the greatest masters: *Italy* has been search'd, and no expence spar'd to make the whole compleat with pictures, busts, statues, medals, and other curiosities worthy of being collected.

The cathedral church (or *Notre Dame* as it is called) is situated on a little island on the *Seine*, and is a majestic *Gothic* structure: the greatest curiosity in this church is the altar piece, compos'd of the finest *Egyptian* marble; there is an image of the virgin *Mary* sitting in a mournful posture at the foot of the cross, with a dead *CHRIST* on her knees: on her right hand is the figure of *Louis XIII.* on his knees, cloathed in his royal robes, offering his crown and scepter to the virgin; and on her left, *Louis XIV.* in the same posture.

The hospitals at *Paris* are twenty eight in number, some for poor, old, infirm people: some for foundlings; some for orphans; others for the mad, blind, vagrants, and incurables; the four chief of which are call'd the *Hospital General*, *God's Hospital*, the *Hospital of Charity*, and the *Hospital for invalid Soldiers*. The *Hospital General*, is a vast pile of building, containing six distinct houses; one

one for poor old women and girls ; the second, for decay'd families ; the third, for foundlings ; and the fourth, for lying-in women, beggars, vagrants, &c. in all the six, 'tis said there are frequently ten thousand people. *God's Hospital* is the oldest in *Paris* ; and receives all sorts of people ; whether natives, or foreigners : it is shamefully crouded, as I have seen, three, and four in a bed, and perhaps each a different disorder.

The hospital of *Invalids*, is for wounded, or infirm officers and soldiers, and is by much, the most magnificent, being compos'd of five handsome quadrangles, built of hewn stone ; of which, the middle one is the largest ; they are surrounded with piazzas and galleries over them, which make a very noble appearance : in the hall, where the soldiers eat, are painted all the battles and sieges of *Louis XIV.* There are usually entertained in this hospital two hundred officers and 3000 soldiers ; the officers lie two in a chamber, and the soldiers, six ; but each have a separate bed.

Paris is supposed to contain 22,000 houses, 979 streets, 52 parishes, 130 convents for both sexes, which augment daily : near 20,000 coaches and 800,000 souls. The civil government is distributed amongst several courts of justice, of which the highest is the parliament, which is divided into nine
P chambers

chambers or houses; and have their respective branches of business. Their principal manufactures are gold and silver silks, velvets, gold and silver lace, ribbons, tapestry, linens, and glass.

Among the disadvantages of this city, it must be observ'd, that *Paris* affords no good water for drinking. The inhabitants being oblig'd to use that of the *Seine*, which is fetid, and if drank without wine, occasions fluxes; it is carried about as they do milk in *London*; the streets are lighted only six months in the year; the lanthorns hang in the middle, supported by cords from each side of the street, which (though an inelegant method) appears more useful than ours. In each quarter of the town, there is a charity house for the reception of poor strangers, where they are lodg'd and entertained gratis, during three days; in which time they get into business, save what few pence they may have; and avoid the fatal snares, that innocent country people (particularly young girls) so frequently fall in a vicious metropolis. *Trinity Hospital*, is for the reception, and education of poor children of both sexes, born at *Paris* in lawful wedlock; the youngest are taught to read and write; and when they are six, or seven years old, are instructed in some trade within the hospital. In order to encourage mechanicks to come and exercise their trade here, and teach the children,

dren, the parliament has decreed, that such journeymen as have attended six years within this hospital, shall have the freedom of the city, without any expence; and that such children as should arrive at age; and should have taught others during six years, after they were out of their apprenticeship, should enjoy the same privilege. This wise establishment, has produc'd the city a vast number of skilful artificers. *London* is very remarkable for its extensive, and generous charities, but I think there might (from what I have just now related,) be something drawn, which would greatly redound to the honour and advantage of its wealthy inhabitants.

Versailles is about twelve miles from *Paris*, on an artificial eminence in the midst of a valley. Before *Louis XIV.* came to the throne, neither the town, nor the palace, had any thing to recommend them, being only a hunting-seat: but there are now three noble avenues leading to the palace, from so many towns: the middle walk of the grand avenue is fifty yards wide, and those on each side, twenty: on the upper end of it, on the right and left, are the stables, in the form of a crescent, so magnificently built that few royal palaces excel them; in which, the king has five hundred horses, the finest the world can produce: from the parade you pass into the first court, through an iron pallisade, in which are offices for ministers

of state; then you ascend three steps, and pass an iron gate, adorned with trophies, to the second court, which is somewhat less than the first; in which, is a noble fountain in the middle, and magnificent buildings in the wings: then you pass into a third, still less than the second, to which you ascend by five steps; this court is pav'd with black and white marble; has a marble bason and fountain in the middle, and is terminated by a noble pile of buildings; which, with the wings, constitute the royal apartments. The principal stair-case therein is ten yards wide, and consists of the choicest marble that could be procured. The grand apartments consist of a long succession of large lofty rooms exquisitely furnished. In the cabinet of rarities, are an infinite number of curiosities in agate, chrystal, and precious stones; medals, coins, and other antiquities; with several admirable paintings. The gallery (esteem'd the finest in *Europe*,) is seventy two yards long, and fourteen broad; having seventeen windows towards the gardens; from whence there is a most delightful prospect.

On the ceilings are painted the battles fought in the late king's reign; and done in the most high finished taste: the finest front is next the gardens, on which side there is a magnificent portico, supported by marble pillars, and floor'd with the same, 100 yards
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in length; and the gardens are not to be parallel'd; as all the beautiful models that *Italy*, or the world could produce, were consulted to make them complete; the water works, especially, are inimitable; here marble, and copper statues, spout up water in different forms, which falls into marble basins of exquisite workmanship. The fountain of the pyramid, the cascades, the water-alley, the water-bower, the triumphal arch, the pavilion fountain, the theatre, and *Apollo's* basin, are so exquisite, that nothing but a view can raise an adequate idea of their various beauties: the groves, grottos, labyrinth, and orangery, are all finely contrived.

The great canal is 1600 yards long, and 64 broad; there are several gallies and pleasure boats upon it, and towards the middle, it is crossed by another canal, at one end of which, is the managery, well stock'd with all manner of wild beasts, birds, and all sorts of exotick animals; and at the other, the beautiful little palace of *Trianon*, built entirely of marble.

The legislative, as well as the executive power in *France*, is vested wholly in the king; his edicts have the force of acts of parliament with us; and he appoints the judges, and other officers, that are to put them into execution.

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The king has his intendants in every government in the kingdom, who are vested with an almost unlimited authority : the courts of parliament are fifteen in number, viz. that of *Paris, Toulouse, Rouen, Grenoble, Bourdeaux, Dijon, Aix, Rennes, Pau, Besançon, Metz, Dowa, Perpignan, Arras, and Alsace* ; these consist of a certain number of presidents, and inferior judges ; who purchase their places, either of the crown, or of those possess'd of them, they being for life ; unless they are found guilty of some notorious crime in the execution of their office.

The parliament of *Paris* is much the most considerable in the kingdom ; for hither, the king frequently comes in person ; and here, his royal edicts are recorded and promulg'd ; 'till when, they have not the force of laws ; but they must not dispute about the merits of them. This parliament is compos'd of the princes of the blood ; dukes, and peers of *France*, besides the ordinary judges ; and takes cognizance of all offences committed by peers, where the court does not interpose. The princes of the blood have their seat and voice there, at the age of fifteen ; and the peers twenty five ; with this difference, that the princes of the blood enter as of right ; but the peers cannot sit there till they have taken an oath of fidelity, and
sworn

sworn to do justice to poor and rich; to observe the rules of the court; and to keep their deliberations secret.

This parliament consists of ten chief presidents; some hearing counsellors, or judges; four masters of requests of the household; twenty presidents, a mortier (so called from the fashion of the cap he wears) and 232 solicitors-general, registers, notaries, secretaries, &c. These members are distributed on, first, the grand chamber; secondly, five chambers of inquests; thirdly, two of requests: besides these, there is another call'd the *Tournelle*, which takes cognizance of criminal matters, where the nobility are not concern'd; for these are try'd in the grand chamber.

In the chamber of inquests, depositions of witnesses are taken, and the proceedings are by way of bill and answer, as in the court of chancery in *England*. The chambers of requests take cognizance of causes relating to privileged persons: the rest of the parliaments, have much the same distribution; only they are excluded from taking cognizance of any causes which relate to the crown, or the peers of the realm: the king's edicts are also register'd in their parliaments, before they have the force of laws in the several districts.

The civil law generally prevails in *France*; besides which, every province has its peculiar

liar customs; but the king's edicts, ordinances, declarations and arrets, (for by all those names are their acts of state call'd) repeal, or alter, any of them. Besides the courts, and officers of justice abovementioned, the kingdom is divided into 25 generalities; every one whereof has an intendant, on whom the king seems to rely for the due administration of justice, both civil and criminal, and the ordering his finances and revenues; and to whom all other officers are, in a manner, subordinate.

The police through *France* is constituted on a most judicious political plan, and executed with the utmost severity: a servant is hang'd for the least breach of trust, though the value of the theft did not amount to a shilling: in all cases of poison (though the attempt did not succeed,) the parties concern'd, are broke upon the wheel; and murderers and robbers on the highway, share the same fate: smugglers, if detected in the fact, are condemned to perpetual slavery in the galleys; and all women who are brought to bed of a dead bastard child (having not at first declared their pregnancy), are burn'd alive: the severity of this law saves the lives of some thousands, annually, of those unfortunate infants: priests, who reveal what penitents confess to them, have their tongues tore out; their gowns stript off; and are expell'd their employments; and any person
who

who hath robb'd a church, has his hands cut off at the church door ; and at the place of execution (which is always in the center of the town) is made fast to a stake, and burn'd alive. People of family who are capitally convicted (though not executed) are disennobled, all their relations (were they a thousand in number) share the same fate ; divested of all their publick employments ; rendered incapable of ever holding any, and all marriage contracts become void.

The only good attending this arbitrary and inhuman law ; is, that it checks their nobility, and gentry, from committing many illegal outrages, they otherwise might be guilty of, were not their hands tied up by the severity of this law ; many of them representing petty monarchs, in the villages of which they are seigneurs.

The taxes usually levied in *France*, are the *taille*, or *land-tax* ; the *taillon* ; the *substance money* ; the *aids* ; and the *gabels*. As to the manner of levying the land-tax, after the king has determin'd what sum he will raise, an order is issued to every generality, what part of it shall be there raised ; then the intendant, in the most equitable manner, (like our commissioners,) appoints every parish its share. The nobility and clergy are exempt from this tax, as are also the burgessees of *Paris*, and some other free cities. The *taillon* was established in 1549,
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for augmenting the soldiers pay, and is payable by the same persons as the *taille*, of which 'tis about one third. The *subsistance* was first levied by *Louis XIV.* to maintain his armies in their winter quarters; and is paid in the same manner as the land-tax. The *aids* are all duties and customs on goods and merchandize, except salt. The *gabels* are the taxes arising from the salt; the farmers of the *gabels* are obliged to buy their salt at the salt-pits, at a certain price, and carry it to the store houses established by the king, where it is delivered out to the people. There is one of these houses in every great town, and the directors, and other officers belonging to it, are judges of all offences relating to salt; and examine, if every family takes annually such a quantity as is prescribed them by the government. There are besides these, the poll-taxes, and a tax which has been levied of late years, from which neither the nobility, nor clergy are exempted; it is call'd the 50th *pinny*, or 50th part of the produce of the earth. The tenths, and free gifts of the clergy, amounts also to a very considerable sum, for they are believed to be possess'd of a third part of the lands of the kingdom. A large revenue also arises from crown-lands, woods, fee-farm rents, forfeitures, fines, &c. which are computed to amount to fifteen millions sterling, a year.

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The established religion in *France* is well known to be the *Roman Catholick*: all spiritual causes are cognizable in their ecclesiastical courts, for any case whatsoever; provided they are not blended with temporal matters, for all temporal matters are subject to lay-jurisdiction. The privileges of the clergy are, *first*, they cannot be brought before any lay-jurisdiction for personal matters; so on the contrary they cannot bring lay-men before their ecclesiastical courts for any cause whatsoever; and in real, and mix'd actions, the clergy themselves must try their causes in civil courts: *secondly*, they are exempt from the land-tax: *thirdly*, neither their moveables, which are employed in divine service; nor their books can be seiz'd: *fourthly*, in criminal cases they may, if they desire it, be tried before the grand chamber: *fifthly*, a priest, if he is to be executed for any crime, must first be degraded: *sixthly*, they are exempt from quartering soldiers on them: and *lastly*, their persons cannot be taken in execution, in civil actions.

The king nominates to all bishopricks, and livings, &c. and then the pope sends his bulls of consecration. The crown seizes all temporalities of arch-bishopricks, and bishopricks; which is here call'd, the regal; and the king frequently grants pensions to lay-men out of bishopricks.

I shall

I shall conclude by most earnestly recommending it to all *Protestant* parents, to be extremely cautious to whose care they intrust their children, when sent early into *France* for their education; as I can with confidence assure them, that the *Catholicks* (ever strenuous to make converts) use all their specious and ostentatious arguments to impress their idolatrous, and irrational religion into their tender minds.



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